



INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS



Donald wins Match Play in record fashion

Luke Donald of England poses with the Walter Hagen trophy after defeating Martin Kaymer of Germany 3 and 2 in the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Read more in Aruba Today Sports

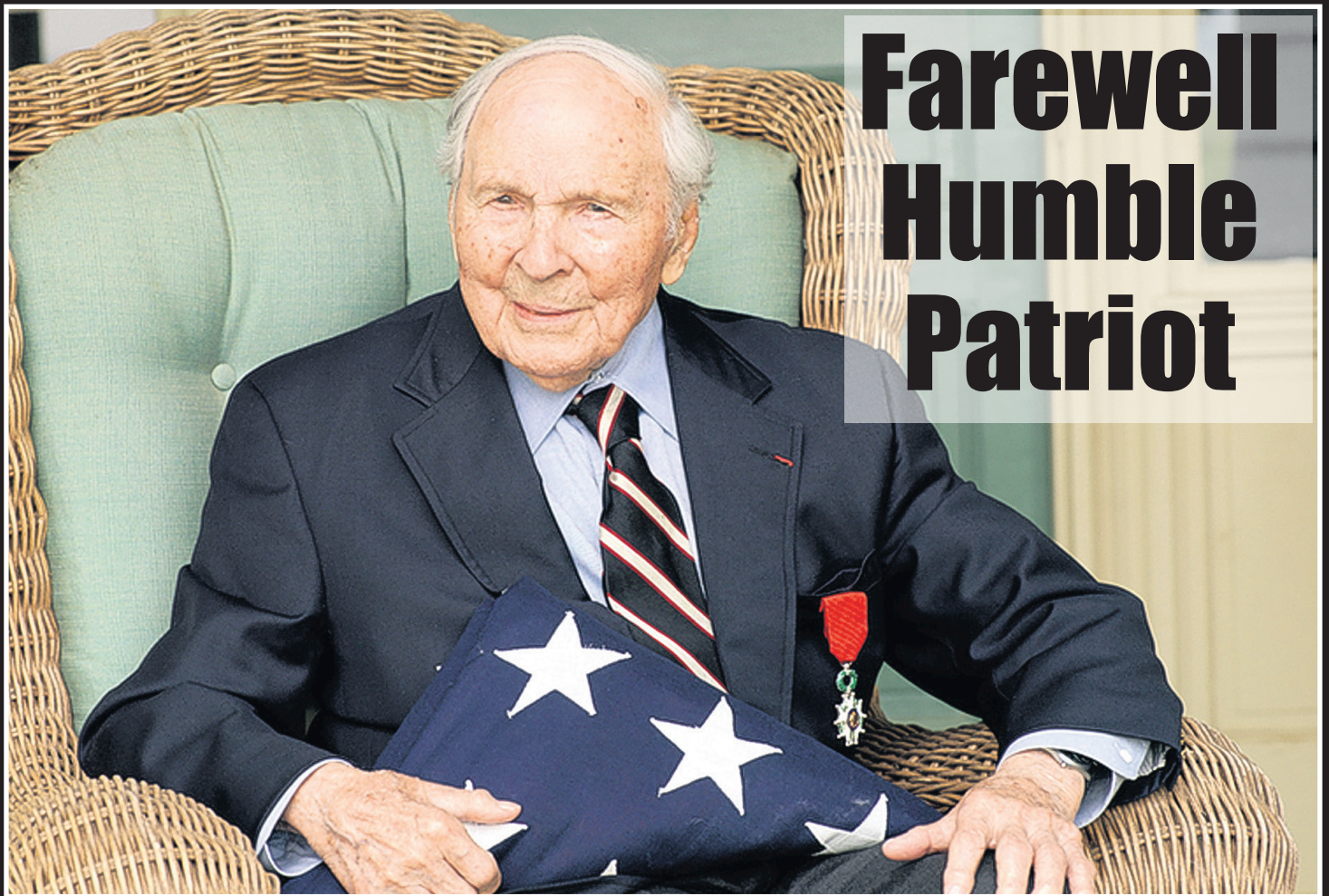
In Texas

Fires scorch homes



LUBBOCK, Texas – Calmer winds allowed an airborne assault on West Texas wildfires that destroyed dozens of homes and a dog

Continued on A/2



Farewell Humble Patriot

The last World War 1 veteran dies

Buckles dies at 110 in W.Va.

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — He didn't seek the spotlight, but when Frank Buckles outlived every other American who'd served in World War I, he became what his biographer called "the humble patriot" and final torchbearer for the memory of that fading conflict.

Buckles enlisted in World War I at 16 after lying about his age. He died Sunday on his farm in Charles Town, nearly a month after his 110th birthday. He had devoted the last years of his life to campaigning for greater recognition for his former comrades, prodding politicians to support a national memorial in Washington and working with

friend and family spokesman David DeJonge on a biography.

"We were always asking ourselves: How can we represent this story to the world?" DeJonge said. "How can we make sure World War I isn't forgotten."

Buckles asked his daughter, Susannah Flanagan, about progress toward a national memorial every week, sometimes daily.

"He was sad it's not completed," DeJonge said. "It's a simple straightforward thing to do, to honor Americans." When asked in February 2008 how it felt to be the last survivor, Buckles said simply, "I realized that somebody had

to be, and it was me."

Only two known veterans remain, according to the Order of the First World War, a Florida group whose members are descendants of WWI veterans and include Buckles' daughter. The survivors are Florence Green in Great Britain and Claude Choules in Australia, said Robert Carroon, the group's senior vice commander.

Green turned 110 on Feb. 19, and Choules turns 110 in March, he said.

Born in Missouri in 1901 and raised in Oklahoma, Buckles visited a string of military recruiters after the United

Continued on A/2

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Continued from 1



kennel and forced hundreds of residents to evacuate.

The 50-mile-per-hour winds whipping up the blazes that scorched 120,000 acres of bone-dry grasslands subsided and helicopters and tanker planes supported firefighters on the ground employing trucks and bulldozers. But it may take days to gain control of the several separate fires, authorities said.

"It just takes so long get around those larger fires," the Texas Forest Service's Tom Spencer said.

Fires destroyed 80 homes, many around Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle, the Forest Service said. Evacuations

emptied a nursing home in Colorado City and a hospital in San Angelo, and the town of Matador.

"It's just overwhelming, I just panicked," said a woman in the town of 700 who lost her home to the flames.

A 40,000-acre fire licking at the town 80 miles northeast of Lubbock was about 75 percent under control, and Matador reopened to resident said John Gonzalez of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

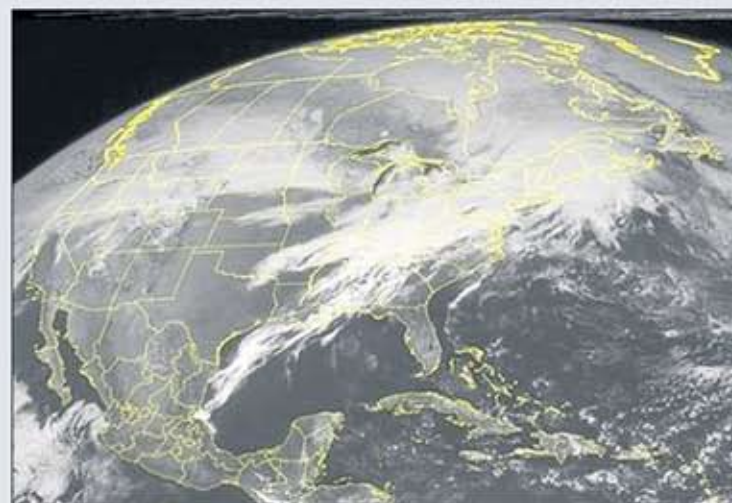
One sheriff's deputy was injured in the Amarillo area, and an unknown number of dogs perished in a kennel fire as firefighters attempted a rescue. □

With wind, hail and rain

Severe storms hit the Southeast

WASHINGTON -- A severe weather front was bringing high winds, lightning, hail, flooding and a few tornadoes to the Southeast and mid-Atlantic forecasters said.

The storm ran through the Mississippi and Ohio valleys overnight, causing flooding that will continue to swell Midwestern waterways throughout the week as the one to three inches of heavy rain meets with quickly melting snow, according to accuweather.com. "The main threat to lives and property from this severe weather outbreak will be from flash flooding and straight-line wind gusts," AccuWeather's senior Meteorologist Sosnowski said on the website. Although there are only a few tornadoes predicted, Sosnowski warned that "these winds can still damage roofs,



These winds can still damage roofs, break windows, down trees and power lines and pose danger to aircraft attempting to land or take off.

break windows, down trees and power lines and pose danger to aircraft attempting to land or take off."

The National Weather Service said "severe storms that produced several tornadoes and well over 100 reports of damaging winds and hail

across the Central U.S. on Sunday" were moving east.

That meant "moderate risk of severe thunderstorms" over parts of Tennessee, northern Alabama and Georgia and far western North Carolina, the Service said on its site. □

Continued from 1

States in April 1917 entered what was called "the war to end all wars." He was repeatedly rejected before convincing an Army captain he was 18. More than 4.7 million people joined the U.S. military from 1917-18. By 2007, only three survived. Buckles went to Washington that year to serve as grand marshal of the national Memorial Day parade. Unlike Buckles, the other two survivors were still in basic training in the United States when the war ended, and they did not make it overseas. When they died in late 2007 and 2008, Buckles became the last so-called doughboy and a soft-spoken celebrity. He got fan mail almost every day, DeJonge said, and had enough birthday cards to fill several bushel baskets.

DeJonge had visited Buckles late last week and was driving back to Michigan with about 5,000 letters to organize and answer when he got the call telling him his friend had died.

"The letters are so heartfelt," he said. "Each night, Susanah would go in and sit at Papa's bedside and read them to Frank.

That kept him going." Buckles had been battling colds and other minor ailments this winter, but he was not ill at the time of his death.

The day before he died was warm, DeJonge said, and he spent three hours sitting in the sunshine on the porch of his farmhouse, talking with his daughter. She worked diligently to keep Buckles in his own home, even though it exhausted his life savings. DeJonge said home health nurses



and other medical care cost about \$120,000 a year.

Details for services and arrangements will be announced later this week, but the family is planning a burial in Arlington National Cemetery. In 2008, friends persuaded the federal government to make an exception to its rules for who can be interred there. □

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Obama supports states' health alternative

WASHINGTON — In a concession over his divisive health care overhaul, President Barack Obama offered to let unhappy states design alternative plans as long as they fulfill the goals of his landmark law.

Addressing the nation's governors, Obama also challenged state chiefs who have sought to balance their budgets through weakening unions and curbing employees' benefits, telling them that they should not demonize workers.

"I don't think it does anybody any good when public employees are denigrated or vilified or their rights are infringed upon. We need to attract the best and the brightest to public service," the president said.

About half the states are suing to overturn Obama's health care law, targeting its unpopular requirement that most Americans carry health insurance or face fines from the IRS. Obama told the



governors that if any of them have better ideas, they're welcome to propose it and see if it works.

First they would have to convince Washington that their approach covers at least as many state residents, provides equally affordable and comprehensive benefits, and would not increase the federal deficit.

"If your state can create a plan that can cover as many people as affordably and comprehensively as the Affordable Care Act does, without increasing the

deficit, you can implement that plan and we'll work with you to do it," Obama told the governors.

Obama's offer is not as sweeping as it may sound at first.

In fact, the law already allows states to propose their own framework for health care. But under the law, states cannot offer their plans until 2017. The president said states could submit their ideas three years earlier, in 2014.

Liberal-leaning states like Vermont would be able to

experiment with a coverage-for-all approach similar to Medicare while Republican-leaning states would be able to propose plans that don't rely on a government mandate to buy insurance. One alternative would be to automatically enroll people in health coverage.

The idea to move up the date for state experimentation did not start with Obama. Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Massachusetts Republican Sen. Scott Brown have already proposed it in legislation. But the president gave it a prominent endorsement.

"I think that's a reasonable proposal, I support it," Obama said. "It will give you flexibility more quickly, while still guaranteeing the American people reform."

The health care law's big push to cover the uninsured won't come for another three years. Starting in 2014, many middle-class households will be able to buy taxpayer-subsidized private coverage through new state based insurance markets. □

Astronauts embark on spacewalk



CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A pair of visiting shuttle astronauts ventured out on a spacewalk at the International Space Station tackling a hodgepodge of maintenance jobs and an experiment to capture the invisible vacuum of space. The spacewalk was interrupted at the two-hour mark when a robotic work station shut down in the orbiting lab. The astronauts operating the robot arm with spacewalker Stephen Bowen perched on its end rushed to another computer station in another room.

It took a while to get the second station working. For nearly a half-hour, the station arm was motionless, with Bowen stuck gripping a big, broken pump that needed to be moved.

He dared not let go. Mission Control asked if he was comfortable. "I'm fine as long as it's not too much longer?" Bowen radioed. "How much longer?"

Close, he was told. But it took several more minutes until the robot arm could come back to life. Finally, the operation resumed and Bowen carried the 780-pound, 5-feet-by-4-foot pump over to its new location on the exterior of the space station. □

Assassin can't remember shooting RFK

LOS ANGELES — More than four decades after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, his convicted murderer wants to go free for a crime he says he can't remember. It is not old age or some memory-snatching disease that has erased an act Sirhan Bishara Sirhan once said he committed "with 20 years of malice aforethought." It's been this way almost from the beginning. Hypnotists and psychologists, lawyers and investigators have tried to jog his memory with no useful result.

Now a new lawyer is on the case and he says his efforts

have also failed.

"There is no doubt he does not remember the critical events," said William F. Pepper, the attorney who will argue for Sirhan's parole Wednesday.

"He is not feigning it. It's not an act. He does not remember it."

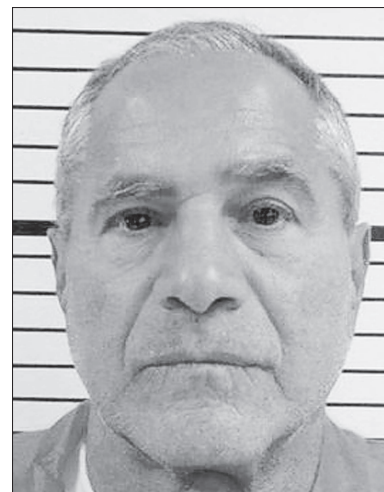
Sirhan may not remember much about the night of June 4, 1968, but the world remembers.

They have heard how Sirhan was grabbed as he emptied a pistol in the crowded kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel here where Kennedy stood moments after claiming

victory in the California presidential primary. They heard how he kept firing even as his hand was pinned to a table. They heard how Kennedy, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, was shot and died, changing the course of American history.

Parole Board members are bound to review those facts, but they won't consider the many conspiracy theories floated over the years.

Pepper, a New York-based lawyer who also is a British barrister, is the latest advocate of a second gunman theory. Believers claim 13



Bishara Sirhan

shots were fired while Sirhan's gun held only eight bullets and that the fatal shot appeared to come from behind Kennedy while Sirhan faced him. □

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Brooklyn jury hears morbid ID theft case

NEW YORK – Irina Malezhik was ending an assignment as a Russian-language translator at a law office in 2004 when she asked an innocent but fateful question: Could anyone offer a lift to Brooklyn?

The man who obliged by chance, authorities say, was a stranger named Dmitriy Yakovlev. He says she later began tutoring him in English and that he loaned her money. Three years later, the Ukrainian-born Malezhik walked out of her apartment building and was never seen again.

The disappearance is central to a disturbing identity theft case that went to trial earlier this month in federal court in

Brooklyn. With the trial entering its third week, a jury has heard about a surgically dismembered body, a Halloween mask discarded with the body parts and an extravagant shopping spree by Yakovlev and his wife that began only 48 hours after Malezhik vanished. Yakovlev, a 43-year-old Russian immigrant, has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy, bank fraud, using stolen credit cards and other charges involving Malezhik and two other victims. As part of the conspiracy, prosecutors allege Yakovlev murdered Malezhik, 47, and Viktor Alekseyev, a neighbor of Yakovlev in a seaside, gated community in Brooklyn. □

Higher education, lower blood pressure

WASHINGTON – The more advanced degrees a person has, the lower their blood pressure, a study published online has found.

An analysis of some 4,000 patient records from the 30-year Framingham Offspring Study found that, controlling only for age, women with 17 years or more of education -- a master's degree or doctorate -- had systolic blood pressure readings 3.26 millimeters of mercury lower than female high school drop-outs.

Men who went to graduate school had systolic blood pressure readings that were 2.26 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) lower than their counterparts who did not finish high school, the study, published online in the open access journal BMC



Public Health, says. The same inverse relationship between education and blood pressure was also seen, although to a lesser degree, in men and women who got associate's or bachelor's degrees at university but did not continue on to graduate school. They showed greater blood

pressure benefits than high school drop-outs but lesser benefits than holders of master's degrees or doctorates, the study found.

Even after controlling for influences such as smoking, drinking, obesity and blood pressure medication, the benefits persisted, although at a lower level. □

After lawsuit questioning its taco filling

Taco Bell unveils new ads

NEW YORK – Taco Bell is turning to TV commercials to battle damage to its image from a lawsuit questioning its taco filling. The fast-food chain has been on the defensive since it was pushed into the media spotlight by a lawsuit that claimed the restaurant's seasoned beef filling did not have enough beef to be billed as such. Taco Bell has repeatedly said the claim is false. The new \$3 million television ad campaign comes the week that Taco Bell is due to respond to the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in California. Taco Bell initially fought back with full-page ads last month in national newspapers. The print ads made a splash



with the headline "Thank you for suing us." The company also launched a social media campaign, urging Twitter users to voice their support. And

earlier this month Taco Bell offered Facebook fans a free crunchy beef taco to thank them for their loyalty.

Taco Bell said it planned the TV campaign after company studies showed the previous campaigns reached only about half the population.

"You want everybody to hear it," Taco Bell Chief Marketing Officer David Ovans said. "You have to go to a mass-market, broadcast approach to get the story straight."

The Alabama law firm that filed the lawsuit last month in California has said its testing showed the filling was made of only 35 percent beef and therefore couldn't be called "beef." □



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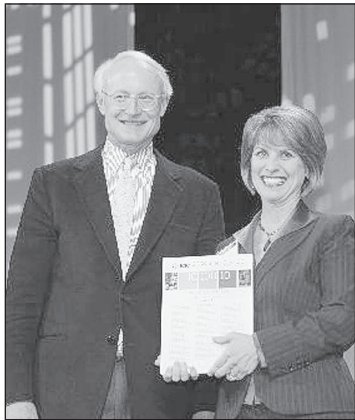
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Corporate buzz

Make money and do good



NEW YORK — Admitting you are making money by doing some good in the world is no longer a dirty little secret, it's called "creating shared value" the new catch phrase in corporate and philanthropic circles.

More than 90 chief executives will meet in New York International Corporate Philanthropy Day, for the Board of Boards CEO conference, where one of the key topics to be discussed is creating shared value.

As the U.S. economy slowly recovers from the worst economic downturn in decades, corporate philanthropy is no longer just about writing a check for charity as executives look to use their core business to do social good, experts say.

The growing trend was dubbed "creating shared value" by Michael Porter of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School, who said companies need to reconnect business success with social progress.

"We need to understand that what's good for the community is actually good for business," said Porter, who spoke to business leaders about the idea at the World Economic Forum in Davos last month. □

US citizen recalls 'humiliating' post-9/11 arrest

LOS ANGELES — Handcuffed and marched through Washington's Dulles International Airport in his Muslim clothing, the man with the long, dark beard could only imagine what people were thinking.

That scene unfolded in March 2003, a year and a half after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. One of the four planes hijacked in 2001 took off from Dulles. "I could only assume that they thought I was a terrorist," Abdullah al-Kidd recalled in an interview with The Associated Press.

Al-Kidd called his airport arrest "one of the most, if not the most, humiliating

experiences of my life." The humiliation had only just begun.

Over the next 16 days he would be strip-searched repeatedly, left naked in a jail cell and shower for more than 90 minutes in view of other men and women, routinely transported in handcuffs and leg irons, and kept with people who had been convicted of violent crimes. On a long trip between jails, a federal marshal refused to unlock al-Kidd's chains so he could use the bathroom. Eight years later, the Supreme Court is weighing whether al-Kidd's arrest and detention violated the Fourth Amendment's prohibition



Abdullah al-Kidd

on unreasonable searches and seizures. The court, which will hear arguments Wednesday in the case, also is being asked to decide whether former Attorney General

John Ashcroft can be held personally liable for his role in setting the policy that led to al-Kidd's arrest at a Dulles ticket counter as he prepared to board a flight to Saudi Arabia.

In the midst of al-Kidd's detention, FBI Director Robert Mueller testified to Congress about recent major successes against terrorism. No. 1 on Mueller's list was the capture of professed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

No. 2 was the arrest of al-Kidd, a Kansas-born convert to Islam who was not charged with a crime either then or later.

Al-Kidd, now 38, was one of about 70 men, almost all Muslims, who were arrested and held in the months and years after Sept. 11 under a federal law intended to compel reluctant witnesses to testify to grand juries and at criminal trials. □

In collar bomb death

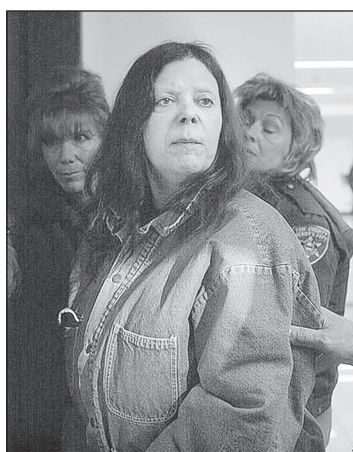
Pa. woman gets life plus 30

ERIE, Pa. — A Pennsylvania woman was sentenced to spend the rest of her life in prison for a bank robbery plot in which a pizza delivery driver was killed by a bomb locked around his neck even though both she and the victim's family claim that she's innocent and that the real killers went free.

It was a strange coda to a bizarre case with a defendant to match: 62-year-old Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong, the mentally ill Erie woman sentenced to life plus 30 years in prison in the bank robbery plot that killed 46-year-old Brian Wells on Aug. 28, 2003.

"I believe the investigators solved the case, and we've brought to justice those who were in a position to be prosecuted," Assistant U.S. Attorney Marshall Piccinini said at a news conference.

Diehl-Armstrong, already in prison for a slaying two weeks



Mentally ill Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong.

before Wells' death, has denied involvement in the plot. And Wells' sister, Jean Heid, supported her claim before Diehl-Armstrong was sentenced.

Heid reiterated the family's belief that Diehl-Armstrong was just a pawn and that Wells wasn't a co-conspirator, as federal prosecutors allege.

"My brother was a bomb hostage, not a bomber," Heid nearly shouted at one point in

her statement to U.S. District Judge Sean McLaughlin.

"My heart goes out to the family," Diehl-Armstrong said before she was sentenced. "The true killers is still out there."

Prosecutors contend Diehl-Armstrong and others plotted to lock the bomb onto Wells' neck, then sent him to rob a PNC Bank in neighboring Millcreek Township because Diehl-Armstrong wanted to hire her fishing buddy, Kenneth Barnes, to kill her father. □

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Ohio painkiller deaths Doctor goes on trial



COLUMBUS, Ohio – Federal prosecutors say Dr. Paul Volkman was part of a scheme that illegally distributed millions of highly addictive pain pills that may have led to a dozen deaths. The doctor says he is innocent and was vigilant about conducting drug tests to make sure patients weren't abusing substances. The trial, which begins Tuesday in Cincinnati, will focus on the allegations against Volkman, a 65-year-old Chicago doctor. But it's also drawing attention to the problem of prescription painkiller addiction in southern Ohio and across the state. The Drug Enforcement Administration considers Scioto County, where Volkman allegedly distributed the pills, one of the worst places in the country for prescription painkiller abuse. Accidental drug overdoses, driven by an increase in painkiller addictions, have surpassed car accidents as the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio.

Volkman could face 20 years in prison if convicted. A 2007 indictment alleges he went to work at the Tri-State Health Care and Pain Management clinic in Portsmouth in 2003. The clinic was operated by a mother and daughter who have since pleaded guilty to one count of operating Tri-State as a place whose primary purpose was the illegal distribution of prescription drugs.

Both Denise Huffman and her daughter, Alice Huffman Ball, could testify against Volkman at trial.

The government alleges that on June 23, 2003, Volkman prescribed oxycodone, hydrocodone and other drugs for a patient named Aaron Gillespie, who died four days later as a result of "multiple drug intoxication." □

As assembly reconvenes

Indiana Democrats remain out of state

INDIANAPOLIS – Most Indiana Democratic state representatives are staying in Illinois prolonging into a second week a stand-off to delay a vote on bills they say would harm workers' rights, Democrats said.

The Indiana Democrats, staying in Urbana, Illinois, say there has to be an agreement by Republicans to take those bills off the table before they will discuss other legislation. The Indiana assembly reconvened afternoon, but missing most of its 40 Democrats, thus depriving Republicans, who have 60 votes, the two-thirds quorum needed to pass bills. Neither side reported progress in negotiations.

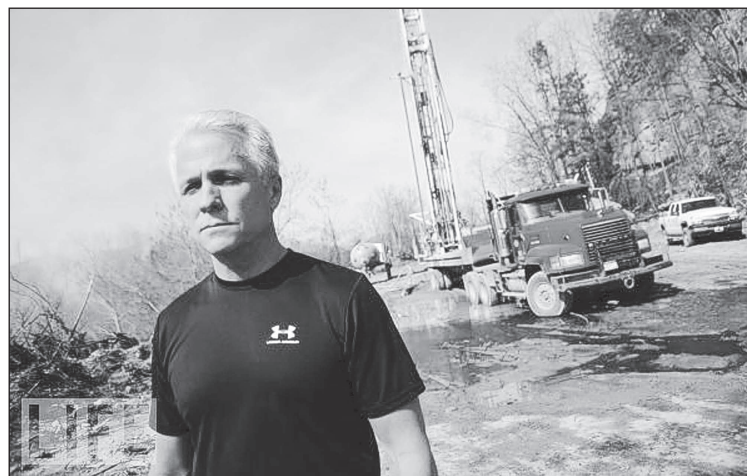


"It's a waiting game right now," said Tory Flynn, a spokeswoman for Republican house speaker Brian Bosma. Republicans want to extend a deadline for the bills until Friday, to keep the bills alive, but

At Massey mine

Security officer charged in probe

WASHINGTON – The head of security at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch mine was arrested on charges he impeded investigators and lied to them as they probed an explosion at the West Virginia mine that killed 29 workers. Hughie Stover, 60, was chief of security at the mine and was accused of ordering an unidentified person to dispose of thousands of pages of security-related documents last month by dumping them into a trash compactor, according to the indictment. He was also charged with lying to investigators who were looking into allegations that it was a routine practice to alert mine personnel over radios at the Upper Big Branch when safety inspectors arrived, ac-



Hughie Stover, 60, was chief of security at the mine.

ording to the indictment. Federal law prohibits anyone from providing advance notice of a Mine Safety and Health Administration inspection. Stover was accused of lying about ordering security guards to alert mine personnel when inspectors arrived, the

indictment said. "The conduct charged by the grand jury obstruction of justice and false statements to federal investigators threatens our effort to find out what happened at Upper Big Branch," U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin said in a statement. □

Health officials track

U.S. airports exposed to measles

BOSTON – Health officials said they have launched a cross-country measles watch for anyone who might have been exposed to a contagious airline passenger who traveled through four major U.S. airports. The 27-year-old New Mexico woman, who was not immunized against measles, arrived from Europe and was

in airports in Virginia, Maryland, Colorado and New Mexico from February 20 to February 22, officials said. No other suspected cases have emerged but it is still early, given the 10- to 14-day incubation time after exposure to the highly contagious virus, said health officials in all four states.

The airborne virus spreads person-to-person and can linger up to two hours in the air after a cough or sneeze. It resembles a cold initially, but later a rash develops on the face and then the rest of the body. People with measles are contagious four days before and four days after the tell-tale rash appears.

With assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state authorities are contacting passengers who may have been exposed to the measles case to confirm whether they have been immunized, said CDC spokesman Jeff Dimond.

They are contacting hundreds of passengers -- those seated in the five rows closest to the confirmed case on one flight and nearly all travelers on the Southwest flights which do not assign seating, he said.

"We're going to be monitoring very closely over the next several weeks for any additional cases and then if we identify any possible cases we'll get confirmatory testing very quickly," said Dr. Maggi Gallaher, medical director for the public health division at the New Mexico Department of Health. □

side, speaking with about 100 people, mostly workers, Flynn said. The bills before the house include one that would create a voucher system to allow Indiana parents to use taxpayer money to send their children to private schools. Another bill would put into state law a ban on collective bargaining for state employees, a policy already imposed by Governor Mitch Daniels. The actions by Indiana legislators mimic what has happened in Wisconsin, where all 14 senate Democrats have left the state to avoid voting on a proposed collective bargaining bill. The Wisconsin Democrats also remained out of state. □



Doggy PAWrade Today



Event organizer Kiki invites everyone to either join in or be a spectator. This event is designed for fundraising to help the stray animals on Aruba. Kiki has rescued more than 80 animals since she has been on the island and needs your help.

PALM BEACH – Today, March 1st, will be the very first ever Doggy PAWrade Aruba hosted by Fundacion Cas Animal & Animal Ambulance Aruba. The parade will start today at 5PM at the Mill Resort and carry its way down the Palm Beach Road ending at the Tony Romas.

Registration begins at 4PM and it is only 25 florin per dog. The event will be followed by elections judged by a vet and experienced SAC-costume judges. Even if your dog doesn't want to wear a costume, he or she is still invited to jump in the event. Prizes will be awarded to Doggy Queen, Prince & Pancho and a variety of other great prizes for the best 1, 2, 3 Doggy costumes. Don't miss this once in a lifetime display of Aruba's unknown talent. □

Local Aruban Armando Boekhoudt

Leaving for a position with Sandals in St Lucia



PALM BEACH - Having worked for 10 years at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Armando Boekhoudt, Assistant Food & Beverage Manager is spreading his wings and leaving to Sandals in St Lucia for a promotion as the resort's food & beverage manager. His colleagues at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa wished him Bon Voyage and success in his future endeavors at an informal cocktail party given in his honor. Pictured here, Armando with Radisson members of management, at his farewell party, where he received a framed token of appreciation signed by all of his colleagues, a framed image of the famed Radisson in Aruba, perfectly suitable to decorate his new office, off island. □



Aruba's Prime Minister declared Monday a Holiday after rain on Sunday

It's raining children on Aruba

ORANJESTAD – On Sunday afternoon, the Children's Grand Parade was scheduled, but due to some morning rain showers, the event was postponed. The children and the entire island was so disappointed that the Prime Minister of Aruba Mike Eman together with SAC changed the parade to Monday afternoon and declared it a holiday. The island worked till about noon, then everyone hit the streets to see the colorful children dance and sing their way through downtown Oranjestad. It is just a few more days until the One happy island of Aruba comes to a close of its 57th annual Carnival. As opposed to the customary month-long festivities, Carnival this year spanned from January into March and featuring a series of colorful and fun events for all. Music and flamboyant costumes play a central role in events ranging from the Queen elections to the Grand Parades which wind their way down the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad to the delight of thousands of spectators. The Grand

Parade in Oranjestad will take place on March 6, 2011. "Carnival is one of Aruba's most important festivities and each year we look forward to another island-wide celebration," said Ronella Tjin Asjoe, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority. "This year we are doubling the fun with two whole months of festivities, events and Carnival surprises." One of the main attractions was the Carnival Queen Election Day, which took place on February 19, where Aruba elected one of its most important Carnival representatives, the Aruba Carnival Queen. Aruba's Lighting Parade will take place on February 26 in downtown Oranjestad and incorporated thousands of tiny lights into costumes, road pieces and floats, creating a dramatic effect to accompany the extravagant display. Set your alarm clocks at 4:00 a.m. on March 5th for Aruba's annual "pajama party" Jouvert Morning in San Nicolas. An early morning open invitation to the island's largest "jump up" is preceded by carnival enthusiasts from all throughout the island who follow the various live music caravans down the city streets until sunrise. Carnival's biggest celebration is the 57th Grand Carnival Parade, an all-day event, which winds its way down city avenues to the delight of thousands of spectators. The Grand Parade takes place on March 6, and is filled with music and festive floats and costumes, in imaginative designs and decorated with a wide variety of colorful stones and feathers, creating a unique display. The parade starts at 12:00 noon in Oranjestad and continues into the evening hours.



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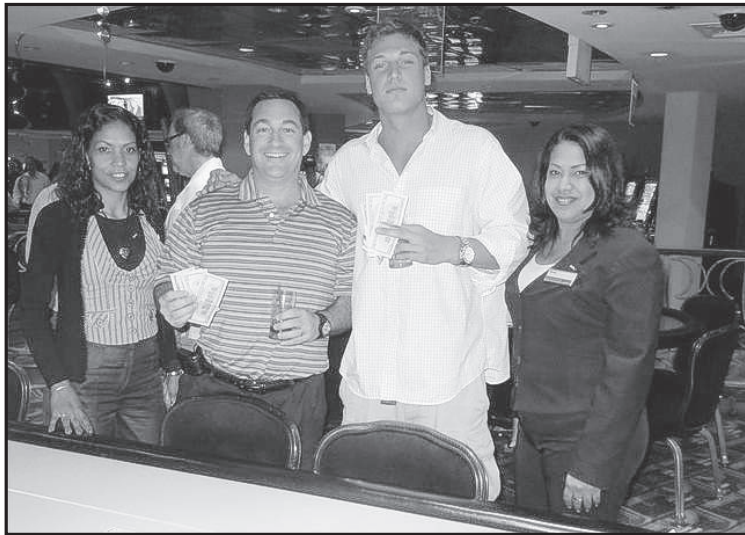
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The Casino at the Radisson

Guests showered with cash and gifts



PALM BEACH – During Valentine's Week Promotion, the Casino at the Radisson awarded generous gift certificates to some lucky guests, among them Dinner for 2 at the famed Sunset Grille to Bernadette Riccardi, Sunday Brunch for 2 at the famed Sunset Grille to Shirley Lobo and Dinner for 2 At Laguna Restaurant to Jean O'Malley.

The Casino at the Radisson was also quite generous to its walk-in guests. Joseph Aekilli from New York staying at the Riu Palace was especially pleased when he visited the Casino at the Radisson where he landed a \$1,200 jackpot. Gus Antonidis staying at the Occidental Grand Hotel and Radisson Guest Michael Codianne, each cashed \$1,400 and slot player Anna Kastriños, was overjoyed to hear the meter register a \$4,000 win. At the beginning of February, the Casino at the Radisson made a car available for raffle among slot players. The final Suzuki SX4 give-away will take place on March 25th, but meanwhile weekly drawings continue to delight slot players who won hand-paid jackpots with gifts and surprises in which an iPod Classic, went to Joan Marin, Dinner for 2 at Laguna Restaurant was awarded to Alex Albertus, and Sunday Brunch for 2 at the famed Sunset Grille was



presented to Radisson's in-house guest Karan Boyd. The exciting weekly Slot Tournament handed out \$600, divided among local winners Mildred Lopez, Reina Tromp and Maria Que-

vedo. As of last week, the Casino at the Radisson now plays Bingo twice a week on Saturday & Sunday at 1 pm and awards a minimum of \$1,300 on each occasion. □

The Worst Oscars Ever?



WASHINGTON, DC — There was no Sacheen Littlefeather moment during last night's Oscar telecast, no streaker sneaking up behind David Niven, no attempt by David Letterman to point out Oprah sounds a lot like Uma all regrettable features of Oscars past. ABC censors even caught and edited an impromptu utterance of the f-word from Best Supporting Actress winner Melissa Leo. At a svelte 3 hours and 11 minutes, the telecast was a welcome reprieve from the four hour behemoths of the past. So why are critics this morning using phrases like "spectacularly unwatchable" to describe last night's show?

The Washington Post's Hank Stuever blamed the curious pairing of co-hosts Anne Hathaway and James Franco. While Hathaway "worked her derriere off" selling the show, "Franco came off like that lacrosse boy you wish your daughter didn't hang out with so much, sort of heavy-lidded and smirky." Alessandra Stanley of The New York Times found him "a little distracted and even blasé." Hathaway was game and did well in solo bits, writes Stanley, but the pairing of "Mr. Cooler-Than-Thou and Miss Eager-to-Please never really synched" onstage. □

Newt says, Obama could be impeached over gay marriage?

New York — Newt Gingrich says President Obama is trampling the Constitution by refusing to fight for the Defense of Marriage Act in court.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who led impeachment proceedings against Bill Clinton, suggested last week that President Obama could be also be impeached, over his recent reversal on gay marriage. Gingrich said it was unconstitutional for Obama's Justice Department to refuse to fight challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act in court. A Gingrich spokesman promptly backtracked, pointing out that Gingrich had simply called the president's actions unconstitutional, stopping short of clearly endorsing impeachment.

This isn't really an impeachable offense, is it?

No. Gingrich is spouting nonsense: This is just silly "grandstanding," says Ian Millhiser at Think Progress. As

Gingrich knows, the Obama White House will continue to enforce the Defense of Marriage Act. The only change is that it won't submit legal briefs "supporting an unconstitutional injustice in court."

If that's grounds for impeachment, we'd also have to impeach Chief Justice John Roberts, who, as George H.W. Bush's acting solicitor general, "refused to defend a federal affirmative action law" he deemed unconstitutional.

"Gingrich suggests impeaching Obama and 'zeroing out' the attorney general over DOMA"

Obama has no right to kill this law: Presidents can't "pick and choose which laws they enforce," says Rob Port at Say Anything Blog. So Gingrich was on the right track by urging lawmakers to cut off funding to Obama's Justice Department until it vows to respect "Congress' law-making authority." □

The Cover-Up That Wasn't

WASHINGTON, DC — On Saturday, The New York Times ran a column addressing the fact that for a time the paper withheld information about Raymond Davis, the American currently standing trial in Pakistan after killing two men on the streets of Lahore. For weeks, the official story was that Davis did unspecified work at the American consulate, but it's since been confirmed that he was gathering intelligence for the CIA. Arthur Brisbane, public editor of the Times, explained that the State Department reached out to the Times and ask that it not speculate about a connection between Davis and the CIA, since it might damage relations between the U.S. and Pakistan and put Davis's life at risk.

In Brisbane's column, Times executive editor Bill Keller describes the request from State Department spokesman P. J. Crowley thusly: "He was asking us not to speculate, or to recycle charges in the Pakistani press. His concern was that the letters C-I-A in an article in the NYT, even as speculation, would be taken as



How the world knew Raymond Davis was a spy.

authoritative and would be a red flag in Pakistan."

Okay. So the Times didn't openly wonder about whether or not Davis might be a spy. Let's look at what they did publish about Davis. From a February 8 article:

Mr. Davis, 36, was driving in dense traffic in this city on

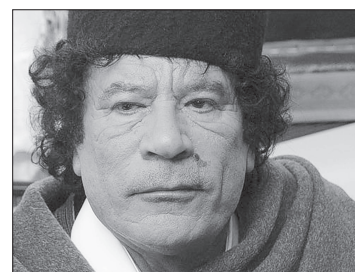
Jan. 27 when, he later told the police, two Pakistani men on a motorcycle tried to rob him. He shot and killed both and was arrested immediately afterward by police officers who say he was carrying a Glock handgun, a flashlight that attached to a headband and a pocket telescope. □

How the Libyan Revolution Could Play Out

WASHINGTON, DC — The latest reports from Libya suggest that the country's ruler, Muammar Qaddafi, is striking back violently against protesters in western cities near the capital of Tripoli, as military defections continue (even Qaddafi's nurse has left him) and international pressure on Qaddafi mounts. Opposition forces shot down a military aircraft and captured the crew as the government sought to wrest back control of Misrata, the country's third-largest city.

The U.N. Security Council, meanwhile, has agreed to sanctions on Qaddafi and other Libyan authorities, imposed an arms embargo, and frozen Libyan assets, while NATO allies consider instituting a no-fly zone over Libya and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the Obama administration is ready to offer assistance to rebel groups.

What will ultimately transpire



in Libya in the days ahead? Here's what some of the analysts are saying:

Everything Depends on Which Side Holds out Longest The Wall Street Journal's Margaret Coker and Charles Levinson explain that Qaddafi's opponents control the eastern half of the country, most of Libya's oil infrastructure, and some cities in the west.

Yet Qaddafi "is dug in in Tripoli and nearby cities, backed by better armed security forces and militiamen," they point out.

Either Way, Events Will Get Uglier Regional experts expect opposition forces to

eventually seize control of the capital and capture or kill Qaddafi, Maria Golovnina at Reuters notes, but they add that Qaddafi "has the firepower to foment chaos or civil war."

Libya's 'Leaderless Revolution' Is Vulnerable Time's Andrew Lee Butters and Abigail Hauslohner observe that former justice minister Mustafa Abdel Jalil and a new revolutionary committee called the National Libyan Council have made competing claims about leading the opposition. Given that Qaddafi's security apparatus remains relatively strong in Tripoli, the reporters explain, the fragmented opposition, headquartered in the eastern city of Benghazi, "is growing increasingly worried that the regime may launch a counterattack to retake liberated territory, order an aerial bombardment or activate sleeper cells to terrorize the city." □

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In France New Eateries not Meriting 3 star awards



PARIS – The arbiter of fine cuisine, the Michelin Red Guide, has added more than 50 restaurants to its annual listing of premier eateries in France but none got its top grade. For the first time in nearly a generation, the anonymous inspectors couldn't find any newcomers for its ultra-elite list of three-star restaurants in France, whose ranks actually shrank by one to 25. Michelin said that reflected diners' ongoing shift to favoring more value-oriented and casual bistro-style eating over the white tablecloths that predominate in the three-star dining world.

The one chef who lost his perch at the top was Michel Trama, whose eponymous restaurant in southwest France features foie gras hamburger and foie gras lollipops, fell from three stars to two.

The 111-year-old guidebook elevated 51 restaurants to either one- or two-star rankings, including a second star for Japanese chef Shinichi Sato at Paris' Passage 53.

Overall, 46 restaurants joined the one-star category for a total of 470, and five got two stars for a total of 76. □

Danish family captured

Sailboat hijacked in Indian Ocean

COPENHAGEN, Denmark – Pirates have hijacked a Danish sailboat with four adults and three children aboard as they were crossing the Indian Ocean, Denmark's government said. Most hostages captured in the pirate-infested waters off East Africa are professional sailors, not families. Pirates are not known to have captured children before. The Danish Foreign Ministry said the ship sent a distress signal on Thursday.

On board was a Danish couple, their three children aged 12-16 and two adult crew members, also Danes.

"It has now been confirmed that the sailboat was hijacked by pirates in the Indian Ocean," the ministry said in a statement. Two days before



On board was a Danish couple, their three children aged 12-16 and two adult crew members, also Danes.



the Danish sailboat sent the distress signal, four Americans were killed by Somali pirates in a hostage standoff. They were the first Americans slain by Somali pirates since a wave of attacks began six

years ago. Danish Foreign Minister Lene Espersen said she was "deeply concerned" about the situation and expressed her sympathies to the Danes on the boat and their relatives. "It is almost unbear-

able to think that there are children involved and I can only sharply denounce the pirates' actions," Espersen said. Danish news agency Ritzau, citing Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Charlotte Slente, said the boat was believed to be heading toward Somalia.

Earlier the European Union Naval Force said Somali pirates hijacked a Greek-owned cargo vessel with 23 crew on board. The MV Dover was seized in the north Arabian sea, 260 miles (420 kilometers) northeast of the Omani port of Salalah, the naval force said. The MV Dover was on its way to Yemen from Pakistan when it was attacked. It was registered with shipping and naval authorities. □

British Airways

Employee guilty of plane terror plot

LONDON – A Bangladeshi Islamic militant working for British Airways was found guilty of plotting to blow up a plane after conspiring with radical US-Yemeni cleric Anwar al-Awlaki.

Rajib Karim, 31, was "committed to an extreme jihadist and religious cause" and was "determined to seek martyrdom", jurors at Woolwich Crown Court in London were told.

The jury convicted Karim of four counts of preparing terror attacks.

The IT worker, who moved

with his wife and son to New-castle in 2006, had admitted being involved in the production of a terrorist group's video, fundraising and volunteering for terror abroad.

Karim, a privately-educated member of a middle-class family in Dhaka, was lured into becoming a staunch supporter of a radical organization called Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh by his younger brother, Tehzeeb.

The trial heard that he had attempted to move from his IT role within the airline to become a member of cabin crew.



Rajib Karim, 31, was "committed to an extreme jihadist and religious cause".

Colin Gibbs, a counter-terrorism lawyer for the Crown Prosecution Service, described Karim's determination to plan an attack as "frightening".

"The most chilling element of this case is probably the fact that Karim tried to enrol as cabin crew and anyone can imagine how horrific the consequences of this could have been, had he succeeded," Gibbs said.

The jury found Karim guilty of plotting to blow up an aircraft, sharing information of use to Awlaki. □

Liberian promotes peace



Pewee Flomoku saw Liberia's child soldiers through a camera lens.

Monrovia, Liberia — Pewee Flomoku is one of the few Liberians who can boast of having visited all 15 counties in a country that, although small, is difficult to travel around. Finding his way into remote areas is important to his work as senior project coordinator of the access to justice program run by The Carter Center here. Small villages are often far from police stations. Problems among locals can flare into violence. His job, Mr. Flomoku says, is to encourage people "to seek help rather than take matters into their own hands." RELATED: Think you know Africa? Take our geography quiz.

His team also trains police and traditional village chiefs in how to deal with complaints and how to mediate. The importance of the work can't be overestimated. A fragile peace has prevailed since a brutal 14-year civil war ended in 2003. About 8,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops remain in the country. "One reason war erupted was the lack of dialogue, which led to harbored grievances," Flomoku says. "That is why our work is important." He knows the horrors of violence. Like all Liberians, he lost relatives and friends to the conflict. Two of his cousins remain in a refugee camp in

nearby Ghana. Flomoku got a close look at the war through his work as a photographer for the Associated Press. He took pictures of fighting, as well as of the war's hidden aspects: people fleeing their homes, starving women and children, and child soldiers. Several times his life was in danger. "Once, we came across people selling rather than handing out emergency aid. They damaged my camera and injured me," he recalls. While many Liberians fled during the war, Flomoku was led to stay by a need to tell the truth. "I couldn't leave," he says. "I needed to tell the world what we were going through." Alphonso Toweh, a Reuters correspondent in Liberia, says Flomoku's work had a huge impact, helping to bring international attention to the conflict in a region often overlooked by the world press. "Pewee's photographs brought sympathy for us and helped to mobilize the international community to help," Mr. Toweh says. Flomoku was at the US Embassy in Monrovia in 2003 when buildings were attacked during a rebel attempt to capture the capital. □

Japanese journalist's death still unsolved

BANGKOK — A Japanese journalist killed during protests in Bangkok last year does not appear to have been shot by security forces, Thai investigators said reversing their preliminary findings and raising immediate questions about the inquiry. Thailand has come under criticism for the pace of its investigations into the more than 90 deaths, including those of two foreign journalists, that took place during mass protests that began last March and lasted 10 weeks. Another 1,400 people were injured, many with bullet wounds. In its long-delayed report into the April 10 death of Reuters cameraman Hiro Muramoto, the Department of Special Investigation said the bullet that killed him was fired from an AK-47 rifle, which is a different weapon than those used by soldiers. "Our investigation clearly shows that the military did not use AK-47s in their operations," DSI director-general Tharit Pengdith said at a news conference. Tharit, however, declined to say whether the report absolved soldiers of Muramoto's death, saying only that the finding was one piece of evidence in an ongoing investigation. □



In Mexico

Gang member in US agent slaying caught



MEXICO CITY — Mexican marines have captured a regional boss for the Zetas drug gang that is accused of slaying a U.S. immigration agent, the navy announced. Navy spokesman Jose Luis Vergara said that suspect Sergio Antonio Mora oversaw Zeta activities in the northern state of San Luis Potosi, where gunmen killed the U.S. agent and wounded another. Vergara did not say if Mora was involved in the Feb. 15 attack that killed Jaime Zapata and wounded Victor Avila, both agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. But he said that Mora, known

as "El Toto," was the boss of Julian Zapata Espinoza, who was arrested last week and allegedly confessed that he took part in the shooting. Mora and five other suspects, including a Honduran man, were detained Sunday at a hotel in Saltillo, capital of the northern state of Coahuila. Much of northeastern Mexico has seen an increase in bloodshed as the Zetas battle their former allies in the Gulf cartel for control of drug trafficking and other criminal activity. Mexican authorities say Zapata Espinoza told them the two agents were attacked because they were mistaken for members of the rival cartel. □

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Canada says

Libya won't affect firms



OTTAWA – The sanctions that Canada has imposed on Libya do not affect the commercial operations of firms such as engineering company SNC-Lavalin Group Inc, government House Leader John Baird said.

Baird also said Ottawa had blocked unspecified financial dealings that the Libyan government had planned to carry out in Canada. He declined to give further details.

Canada announced late on Sunday that it would “impose an asset freeze on, and a prohibition of financial transactions with the government of Libya, its institutions and agencies, including the Libyan Central Bank”. SNC-Lavalin and oil firm Suncor Energy Inc both have operations in Libya. Baird said the sanctions would not stop the companies from doing business there. “This doesn’t eliminate commercial activities,” he told reporters. □

Gadhafi digs in

West moves to help Libya uprising



US Naval and Air Forces were deployed to have flexibility as Pentagon planners worked on contingency plans.

TRIPOLI, Libya – The U.S. military deployed naval and air units near Libya, and the West moved to send its first concrete aid to Libya’s rebellion in the east of the country, hoping to give it the momentum to oust Moammar Gadhafi. But the Libyan leader’s regime clamped down in its

stronghold in the capital and appeared to be maneuvering to strike opposition-held cities.

In Washington, Defense Department spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said the naval and air forces were deployed to have flexibility as Pentagon planners worked on contin-

gency plans, but did not elaborate. The U.S. has a regular military presence in the Mediterranean Sea.

The European Union slapped an arms embargo, visa ban and other sanctions on Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s regime, as British Prime Minister David Cameron told British lawmakers he is working with allies on a plan to es-

tablish a military no-fly zone over Libya, since “we do not in any way rule out the use of military assets” to deal with Gadhafi’s embattled regime.

In the most direct U.S. demand for Gadhafi to step down, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Libyan leader must leave power “now, without further violence or delay.” □

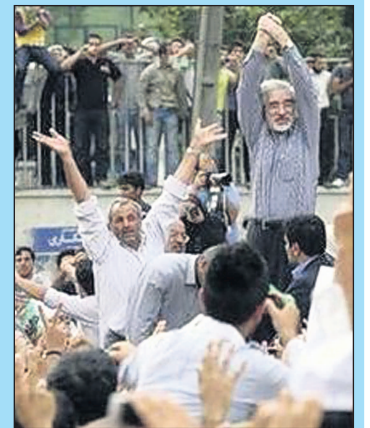
Iran arrests opposition leaders

TEHRAN – Iran has arrested opposition leaders Mirhossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karoubi, the opposition website Kaleme said.

“Sources say that they have been arrested and transferred to Heshmatiyeh jail in Tehran,” Mousavi’s website Kaleme reported.

Judiciary officials were not immediately available for comment.

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, an advocacy group which has staff in the United States and Germany, said on Sunday the two leaders had been moved secretly from their homes where they had been under virtual house arrest for calling on supporters to protest against the government.



Mirhossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karoubi

Mousavi and Karoubi had been forced to stay in their homes in the capital Tehran for more than two weeks. Mousavi’s daughters said on the Kaleme website that they had been prevented from approaching the house since February 14. □

In New Zealand

Buildings’ quake safety defended, burials start

CHRISTCHURCH – Two buildings where scores of people were killed in last week’s earthquake in the New Zealand city of Christchurch had been cleared as safe after a quake last year, an official said as funerals began for the victims.

Separately, Prime Minister John Key said the overall cost of the February 22 and the September 4 quakes combined would be about NZ\$20 billion (\$15 billion), with the second, more destructive, earthquake costing about three-quarters of the total.

Concern had been raised about the condition of the 25-year-old Canterbury Television

Building, which housed a language school and was where nearly half the confirmed dead were killed. The death toll from last Tuesday’s 6.3 magnitude quake is 148, but authorities expect it to rise to near 200.

A 7.1 quake rocked Christchurch on September 4, and questions had been raised about whether buildings such as the CTV and Pyne Gould building had been destabilized, but an official said both had been inspected and cleared as safe.

“What mother nature did to us last Tuesday was to deliver an earthquake that exceeded design standards. And it ex-

ceeded them by 50 percent,” Christchurch City Council Building Manager Steve McCarthy told a media briefing.

“The unique thing about this earthquake is that it lifted the ground and the buildings and then dumped it at two times the force of gravity,” McCarthy said.

The bodies of dozens of students from Japan, China, the Philippines and Taiwan are still in the ruins of the six-storey CTV building, whose floors pancaked on top of each other.

The first funeral of a victim, a five month old infant boy, took place. Only eight bodies have been released because of



the need to accurately identify the dead.

Police and rescue officials were in tears at the funeral of Baxtor Gowland in Christchurch, as the boy’s family thanked the community for rallying around in support.

“We have come with very heavy hearts today to remember with love and say goodbye to baby Baxtor ... a treasured baby son,” the boy’s great-aunt said, the New Zealand Herald reported. □

Amid N. Korea threat

US, S. Korea launch sea, air exercises

SEOUL – US and South Korean troops launched major annual land, sea and air exercises, amid North Korean threats to turn Seoul into a “sea of flames” in the event of any provocation.

The Key Resolve/Foal Eagle drills are the first of their type since the communist state’s deadly shelling of a South Korean border island last November.

The US and South Korea said the exercises are defensive in nature while training their forces “to respond to any provocation”. North Korea habitually denounces them as a rehearsal for invasion. “If the aggressors launch provocation for a ‘local war’ the world will witness unprecedented all-out counteraction on the part of the army and people of the DPRK (North Korea),”



Pyongyang’s military said Sunday.

“It will also see such merciless counteraction as engulfing Seoul in sea of flames.” Ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun accused Seoul of “despicable sycophancy” towards Washington and said the war games increase the risk of nuclear war on the peninsula.

The North routinely issues such warnings before military drills in the South, which has a defence alliance with the United States dating back to the 1950-53 Korean War. Some 28,500 US troops are based there. □

In Oman

Protesters set supermarket ablaze

SOHAR, Oman – Protesters set a supermarket ablaze and rallied at two places in this seaside town in a third consecutive day of unrest that has included deadly clashes in the strategic Gulf nation.

Security forces sealed off main roads to Sohar, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) northwest of the capital of Muscat, in an attempt to isolate the protesters and keep crowds from swelling.

Omar al-Abri, an official at the state-run Oman News Agency, said one person was confirmed dead Sunday after police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse hundreds of demonstrators in Sohar. Witnesses said a supermarket was set on fire and several hundred protesters, mostly young men were rallying in the town’s main roundabout, demanding higher salaries, jobs for unemployed youth and the dismissal of some government ministers.



Several hundred protesters, mostly young men were rallying in the town’s main roundabout when the supermarket was set ablaze.

By late afternoon, protests spread to Oman’s second largest port in Sohar. Witnesses said about 500 protesters blocked trucks from entering the port, about 8 miles (12 kilometers) away from protest’s focal point at the roundabout. Police did not respond to protests, witnesses said.

State media reported Sohar’s civilian guards, including members of women’s asso-

ciations, repelled protesters’ attempts to set fire to a health center and several commercial sites.

Oman, ruled by a powerful family dynasty, marks the latest flashpoint in the Arab world’s challenges to authority and suggests that demonstrations could widen in the Gulf with protest rallies planned next month in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. □

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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: “From the pier to your plate!”

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“fresh seafood” really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called “Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Critical week on NFL labor scene

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell arrives for football labor negotiations with the NFL Players Association involving a federal mediator, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, in Washington.

Associated Press
Page 4



SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Donald wins Match Play in record fashion



Luke Donald of England grasps the Walter Hagen trophy after defeating Martin Kaymer of Germany 3 and 2 in the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — The Match Play Championship ended with what must have felt like a strange sensation for England's Luke Donald. He was posing Sunday with a trophy on American soil.

Donald spoiled Germany's Martin Kaymer's rise to No. 1 in the world by winning with a performance so dominant he never played the 18th hole all week.

On a bizarre final day in the high desert, which began with snow covering the fairways, Donald pulled ahead for good with a birdie on the par-5 11th and a par on the next hole, eventually closing out Kaymer on No. 16 for a 3-and-2 victory.

Continued on Page B6

STEAL OK'S THUNDER

Lakers hold on to beat Thunder



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, left, shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, center, and guard Thabo Sefolosha, right, of Switzerland, near the end of the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Oklahoma City. Bryant scored 17 points as the Lakers win 90-87.

Associated Press
NBA Roundup Page 3



Bowled over: Roach hat-trick seals win for West Indies

West Indies wicket keeper Devon Thomas reacts as Netherlands Mudassar Bukhari misses a ball during a ICC Cricket World Cup league match between Netherlands and West Indies in New Delhi, India, Monday, Feb. 28, 2011.

Associated Press - Page B2

Roach hat-trick caps one-sided games at World Cup

C. RAJSHEKHAR RAO

AP Sports Writer

NEW DELHI (AP) — West Indies and Zimbabwe both swept to crushing victories at the World Cup on Monday as the tournament's minor teams were once more outclassed in hopelessly one-sided contests. A hat-trick from pace bowler Kumar Roach completed West Indies' 215-run victory over Netherlands at New Delhi in Group B, while a fine team effort from Zimbabwe helped carve out a 175-run win over Canada at Nagpur in Group A. The surrenders were fairly dismal as the Dutch were bowled out for just 115 in 31.3 overs in reply to 330 by West Indies, while Canada managed 123 off 42.1 in reply to Zimbabwe's 298.

The results suggest a decision by the International Cricket Council to reduce its showcase tournament from 14 to 10 teams at the 2015 World Cup is now being vindicated.

Roach helped himself to a hat-trick when the writing was on the wall for Netherlands.

Chasing 331, Netherlands was already tottering at 115 for seven in 31 overs when Roach came on to strike with the first three deliveries of a new over. Pieter Seelaar, Bernard Loots and Berend Westdijk were

dismissed with ease as Roach finished with figures of 6-27.

West Indian skipper Darren Sammy termed Roach's effort "brilliant."

"His role in this team is to be the strike bowler for us," said Sammy. "It was important that he went out and did it."

Sammy said the win had given the team confidence ahead of its next engagement against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Friday.

"Obviously, we did a lot of good things, so we'll look to review this game and see how we bowl. It might be a different wicket but obviously we'll look to capitalize and repeat the good things we did in this game against Bangladesh."

Earlier, West Indies had the satisfaction of seeing Chris Gayle compile a neat 80 and Kieron Pollard get 60 off only 27 deliveries for the fastest half-century so far in this World Cup.

Devon Smith scored 53 and Ramnaresh Sarwan made 49 to complete a hammering of the hapless Dutch bowlers, for whom left-arm spinner Seelar bagged 3-45.

At Nagpur, Zimbabwe gained some valuable confidence in its batting and spin bowling.

Experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Tatenda Taibu made



Canada's Rizwan Cheema, right, reacts after losing his wicket during their Cricket World Cup Group A match against Zimbabwe in Nagpur, India, Monday, Feb. 28, 2011.

a fluent 98 off 99 balls and Craig Ervine scored 85 off 81.

"We've shown on the batting side we now have a bit of confidence going into that game," Zimbabwe captain Elton Chigumbura said. "Some guys put some runs on their bat so hopefully we just carry on from that and work on those weaknesses we have shown in today's game."

Left-arm spinner Raymond Price used the new ball well, his 3-16 knocking off the Canada top order. Legspinner

Graeme Cremer ensured an early end with 3-31.

Canada captain Ashish Bagai said it was a batting failure rather than any great bowling from the Zimbabweans.

"A good attack and blowing us over, I wouldn't mind it so much, but it's our own mistakes going over and over again. It definitely was not a 120 wicket," Bagai said.

The only performer for Canada was Balaji Rao. The leg-spinner, once seen as an India test prospect when he tasted

success along with left-arm spinner Murali Kartik in an under-19 side of the mid 90s, finished with 4-57.

Canada meanwhile notched a World Cup milestone with opener Nitish Kumar becoming the youngest player to feature in the competition at 16 years and 283 days.

The onus will now be on Kenya to try and change the trend of one-sided contests featuring less fancied sides, when it takes on Sri Lanka in Colombo on Tuesday. □



Austria's Mario Stecher, from left, Bernahrd Gruber, David Kreiner and Felix Gottwald pose after winning the men's nordic combined team competition at the Ski World Championships in Oslo, Norway, on Monday, Feb. 28, 2011.

PAUL O'MAHONY

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Marit Bjoergen of Norway earned her third gold medal in three races Monday, and Austria won a sprint finish to take the Nordic combined normal hill team event at the Nordic

world skiing championships.

Bjoergen, unbeaten in a distance race since the Vancouver Olympics, crossed the line at the famed Holmenkollen arena to win the women's 10-kilometer classical-style race in 27 minutes, 39.3 seconds.

Justyna Kowalczyk of Poland,

Bjoergen races to 3rd gold; Austria wins team combined

a two-time world champion, led for most of the race but was overtaken in the closing stages and finished 4.1 seconds behind. Aino Kaisa Saarinen of Finland was third, 9.7 seconds back.

Mario Stecher edged Tino Edelmann to give Austria the win over Germany in the first of two Nordic combined team events — a large hill competition is held Friday. Host nation Norway was third.

Bjoergen fell to the snow in exhaustion after a thrilling comeback in the cross-country race, but was quickly back on her feet to acknowledge the cheers of thousands of flag-waving Norwegian fans.

The 30-year-old triple Olym-

pic champion set out 30 seconds ahead of her closest rival in a staggered start and didn't know at first whether she had done enough to win.

"I just lay there looking up at the TV screen and waiting for Kowalczyk," said Bjoergen. "Then I heard: 'The gold will go to Marit Bjoergen' and was very happy."

The bells of Holmenkollen church rang out in celebration as Bjoergen pulled on her specially designed puffy gold jacket for the third time.

But Kowalczyk certainly frayed the home crowd's nerves by pushing the Norwegian hard. The Pole burst into a 12-second lead in the opening four kilometers and it

wasn't until the closing stages that Bjoergen started to gain. The champion confessed she was skeptical whether she could make up the ground.

"On the last climb I was told the gap was down to two seconds," said Bjoergen. "I thought my trainer was kidding me." For Kowalczyk, it was time to reflect on yet another defeat to the Norwegian. "I fought really hard on the uphill for the first four kilometers but I was so tired for the last two," Kowalczyk said.

With the crowd perhaps sensing an unwanted surprise, Kowalczyk said she was the only athlete in the top three who could hear the split times on the stadium loudspeaker. □

NBA, WNBA, U.S. national teams to go to Manchester

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — The NBA, the WNBA and the U.S. men's and women's national basketball teams are all heading to Manchester, spreading the sport's American reach in Britain outside London for the first time.

The NBA, which has played preseason games in London for four straight years and will hold regular-season games between the New Jersey Nets and the Toronto Raptors on Friday and Saturday, will play an exhibition game at the MEN Arena in 2013. The teams will be announced at a later date. This year, the Atlanta Dream of the WNBA is scheduled to play an as yet unannounced opponent in a preseason game on May 29. The U.S. men's and women's national teams will play in Global Community Cup games in July 2012, days before the opening ceremony of the London Games. Both teams won the gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Games.

"This comprehensive schedule of premier basketball events will help grow the sport for years to come," NBA Europe senior vice president Sophie Goldschmidt said. "This partnership shows our ongoing commitment to deepen basketball's footprint in the country." For the WNBA, it is only the second time the women's league will play internationally following a game in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2004.

The Dream won the Eastern Conference championship in 2010 but lost to the Seattle Storm in the finals.

"This will be our second preseason game and five days later we open our campaign," Dream head coach Marynell Meadors said. "It will prepare us for travel. It will prepare us for playing someone different. We will learn something from it." □

NBA Roundup

Lakers edge Thunder 90-87

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Pau Gasol had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant scored 17 points as the Los Angeles Lakers extended their cushion over Oklahoma City in the Western Conference standings by beating the Thunder 90-87 on Sunday.

Andrew Bynum added 16 points and 10 rebounds, but the Lakers weren't able to simply overpower the a Thunder team that added Kendrick Perkins for interior toughness but won't get him in the lineup for a couple weeks.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 22 points and Durant scored 21.

Knicks 91, Heat 86

At Miami, Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points, and Amare Stoudemire added 16 and a huge blocked shot against LeBron James with 7 seconds left as New York stunned Miami.

Chauncey Billups had 16 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:01 left for New York, which rallied from a 15-point, first-half deficit. Stoudemire finished with 10 rebounds for the Knicks.

James scored 27 for Miami, which had won seven straight at home. Chris Bosh added 20 points and 12 rebounds, and

Dwyane Wade finished with only 12 points for the Heat.

Suns 110, Pacers 108, OT

At Indianapolis, Channing Frye hit a long jump shot as the overtime buzzer sounded to lift Phoenix past Indiana.

Grant Hill had 34 points for the Suns, who scored the first seven points of overtime before the Pacers rallied.

Josh McRoberts tied the game at 108-108 on a three-point play with 23.9 seconds remaining. But the Suns worked the clock to 3.5 seconds, and after a timeout, Frye converted from 23 feet for the victory.

A.J. Price had 11 of his 16 points during the Pacers' fourth-quarter rally.

Steve Nash had 10 points and 12 assists for the Suns.

Timberwolves 126, Warriors 123

At Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 37 points and 23 rebounds to extend his NBA-leading double-double streak to 46 games, as Minnesota snapped a seven-game skid.

Love had his fourth 30-point, 20-rebound game of the season as the Timberwolves overcame a 14-point deficit and avoided extending their longest losing streak of a frustrating season. The All-Star forward also went 18 for 23 from the free throw line



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) celebrates after teammate Chauncey Billups (4) scored against the Miami Heat in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011. The Knicks won 91-86.

Associated Press

to tie Minnesota's franchise records for attempts and makes. Stephen Curry led Golden State with 33 points while Dorell Wright added 26.

Rockets 91, Hornets 89

At New Orleans, Kevin Martin scored 33 points as Houston beat New Orleans for its fourth straight win.

Kyle Lowry added 18 points for the Rockets, who overcame a 16-point, second-half deficit and made 11 3-pointers in the game, four each by Martin and Lowry. Martin was 13 of 13 on free throws, hitting two key foul shots with 18.4 seconds left to give Houston a

90-87 lead.

David West had 20 points and Chris Paul had 12 assists for New Orleans, which lost for the first time in three games since the All-Star break.

In other NBA Roundup it was Phoenix 110, Indiana 108, OT; L.A. Lakers 90, Oklahoma City 87; Minnesota 126, Golden State 123; Philadelphia 95, Cleveland 91; Orlando 100, Charlotte 86; Dallas 114, Toronto 96; Houston 91, New Orleans 89; San Antonio 95, Memphis 88; New York 91, Miami 86; and Atlanta 90, Portland 83. □

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late show: 11:30

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BIG MOMMAS HOUSE 3

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matinee: 12:00 - 2:30
late show: 12:00

SP

SANCTUM 3D

daily: 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:30
matinee: 12:00 - 2:30
late show: 11:45

PG-13

JUST GO WITH IT

daily: 9:30
matinee: 12:00
late show: 12:00

PG-13

I AM NUMBER FOUR

daily: 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45
matinee: 12:30 - 2:45
late show: 12:00

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Critical week on NFL labor scene

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — This is the week hardly anyone expected to actually arrive: deadline time for the NFL and its players' union.

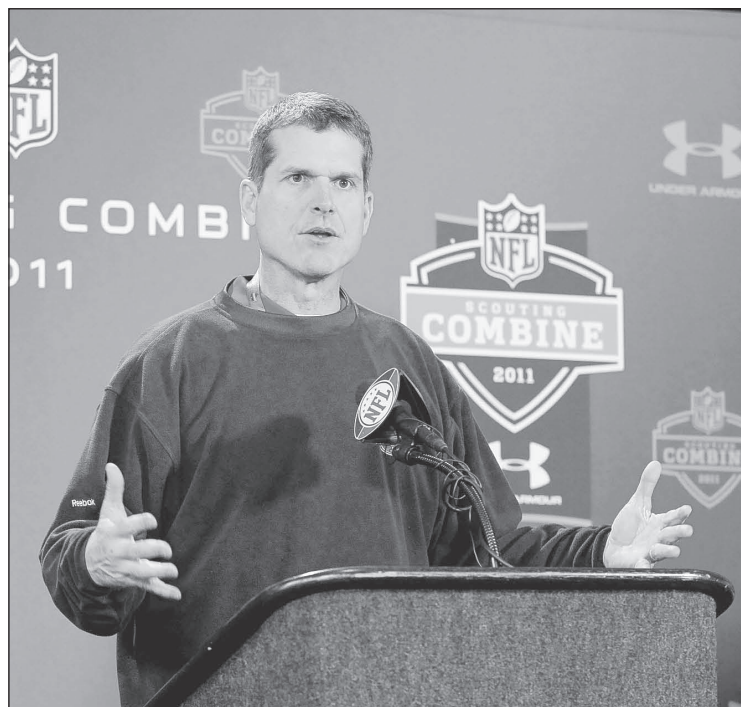
The collective bargaining agreement expires Thursday night, and the owners could lock out the players. Even before that, though, the Players Association is likely to decertify to prevent a lockout and take its chances in court.

Both sides will resume meeting with a federal mediator Tuesday and probably Wednesday in Washington; seven recent sessions brought little progress. The 32 team owners have meetings Wednesday and Thursday in nearby Chantilly, Va., where they will be briefed on the status of negotiations before deciding on the next step.

Just ahead stands the unthinkable: a labor shutdown in America's most prosperous and popular sport.

"Everything is hypothetical right now," new 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said Monday. "I'm just optimistic we can get something done."

If the league locks out the players, everything stops except the NFL draft on April 28-30 — and any interviews or workouts teams conduct with college players leading up to the draft. After that, teams can't contact their



San Francisco 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh responds to a question during the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011. Associated Press

picks, nor can they sign undrafted rookies.

Veterans also will be in limbo, with no offseason workouts (OTAs) or minicamps held. The longer the impasse lasts, the more in jeopardy training camps, the preseason and — gasp! — the regular season become.

Dolphins quarterback Chad Henne already has plans for practicing with teammates.

"We picked out a spot to work out at, and we're trying to get guys back in town," Henne said.

"Normally our offseason program starts March 28, so

we're going to try to have everybody back March 28 ... and hopefully a lot of guys will come back and we can work out and we can build some bonding and camaraderie."

The financial losses are almost incalculable, but would grow by tens of millions of dollars the longer the work stoppage lasts.

The NFL is a \$9 billion industry, but not when it comes to a halt.

Should the union decertify, something it did in 1989, only to reform, individual players would seek a court injunction preventing a lockout. Players

on every team approved decertification in votes during the season.

But going through the courts can be a long, winding journey.

The league filed an unfair labor practice charge against the union with the National Labor Relations Board in mid-February, saying the NFLPA "consistently has failed to confer in good faith" during negotiations for a new contract. The NFL claimed the union's plans to decertify overrode its interest in reaching a new CBA, a charge union spokesman George Atallah said had "absolutely no merit."

If the union decertifies, which it must do before the CBA expires at 11:59 p.m. Thursday night, Commissioner Roger Goodell and the NFL in essence would have nobody to negotiate with. Then again, the players wouldn't have executive director DeMaurice Smith representing them anymore.

Already, some teams have withheld 2011 playbooks from veterans, particularly teams with new coaches, offensive or defensive coordinators. Indeed, several teams are putting together two sets of playbooks, one for use if there is an agreement and offseason workouts take place, and one in the event there are no OTAs or minicamps. □

IOC calls for crackdown on illegal betting

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

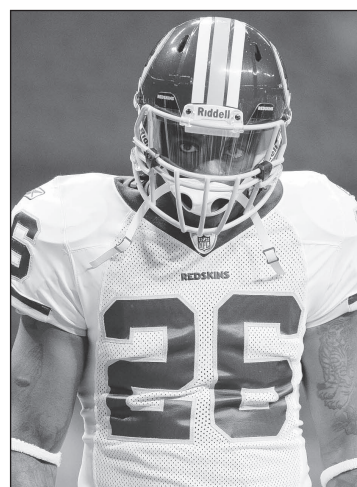
GENEVA (AP) — The International Olympic Committee is stepping up the global fight against illegal betting and match-fixing in sports, warning of the danger posed by organized crime syndicates.

IOC President Jacques Rogge has called together sports leaders, politicians, licensed betting operators and international police agency Interpol for a special summit meeting Tuesday.

"We need a broad collaboration with governments," said Rogge, who has called illegal betting linked to match-fixing and money laundering a threat comparable to doping.

"These are mafia links and mafia people and they bet at the same time while manipulating the result of a match," he told reporters in a conference call.

Rogge's initiative comes days after the World Anti-Doping Agency called for the establishment of a global "sports integrity body" to centralize and strengthen anti-corruption efforts. □



This Sept. 26, 2010, file photo shows Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis before an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams, in St. Louis. The Redskins cut ties with Portis on Monday, Feb. 28, 2011, ending his seven seasons in the nation's capital. Associated Press

Redskins cut Portis, ends 7 eventful years in DC

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — "Southeast Jerome" is officially gone for good. As well as "Dolla Bill" and "Sheriff Gonna Getcha." Clinton Portis was released by the Washington Redskins on Monday, ending a charismatic and sometimes contentious seven-year stay that, for a while at least, made him the face of the franchise.

Injuries and money led to coach Mike Shanahan's decision. Portis had played in only 13 games over the last two seasons because of a severe concussion in 2009 and a torn groin muscle in 2010.

Portis was scheduled to make \$8.3 million next season, and Shanahan made it clear at the NFL combine that the Redskins wouldn't keep the 29-year-old running back at that price.

"We're going to let him test the market," Shanahan said, "and see what's out there for him."

Portis told 106.7 The Fan that he was given a chance to restructure his contract, but he said it would be "hard to accept not being the go-guy."

"It was kind of a mutual decision," Portis said. "They could have sat and held on and played around. They gave

me an opportunity to further my career and go somewhere where I can help."

Portis is 77 yards of 10,000 career rushing yards and leaves Washington 648 shy of one of his oft-stated goals — Hall of Famer John Riggins' franchise record.

"If the record meant that much, I think I could stay in D.C. to get it," Portis said. "Although I wanted it, I don't think I wanted it bad enough to ... continue to endure the area to get it. If John Riggins is the only name you can say did more than me as a Redskins running back, that's great company to be in. And

I'm OK with that."

Portis will be most remembered for his colorfully productive 2005 season, when he set a franchise single-season rushing record (1,516 yards) and led the team to its first playoff berth in six years while playing dress-up along the way. Every Thursday during the season's homestretch he would appear in costume, playing a wide range of characters that also included "Bro Sweets" and "Inspector Two-Two."

Portis is also one who freely speaks his mind, and that frequently got him into trouble over the years. □

NHL Roundup

St. Louis, Lecavalier lead Lightning over Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — Martin St. Louis had a goal and an assist, and Vincent Lecavalier broke a third-period tie during a two-man power play to lift Tampa Bay to a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Sunday.

St. Louis scored in the first period and then set up Lecavalier's 15th goal that made it 2-1. Tampa Bay, second in the Eastern Conference, played on the road for the first time since Jan. 21.

Dwayne Roloson stopped 22 shots as the Lightning completed a four-game sweep of the Rangers, a potential first-round playoff opponent.

Brandon Prust scored a short-handed goal in the second period for New York, which had a two-game winning streak snapped. Henrik Lundqvist made 17 saves.

Blackhawks 4, Coyotes 3,

SO

At Chicago, Jonathan Toews scored twice in regulation and had the lone goal in the shootout to lead Chicago over Phoenix for its fourth straight victory.

Marian Hossa also scored for the Blackhawks.

Adrian Aucoin, Keith Yandle and Martin Hanzal scored in the second for the Coyotes, who leveled it 3-3 late in the period after trailing by two goals twice.

Chicago's Corey Crawford made 26 saves, while Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 38 shots for Phoenix.

Bruins 3, Oilers 2

At Edmonton, Alberta, Michael Ryder had a goal and an assist to lead Boston past Edmonton.

Nathan Horton and Rich Peverley also scored for the Northeast Division-leading

Bruins, who have won five straight on their six-game road trip.

Ales Hemsky and Gilbert Brule had goals for the Oilers. Brule was back in the lineup after sitting out 27 of the past 30 games with an illness.

Predators 3, Blue Jackets 2

At Nashville, Tennessee, David Legwand capped Nashville's three-goal third period with the go-ahead score with 1:35 remaining to lead the Predators over Columbus.

Shea Weber and Jonathon Blum also scored for Nashville, which kept pace in the tightly bunched Western Conference playoff race. It was the first NHL goal for Blum.

Matt Calvert and Kris Russell scored for Columbus.

Nashville's victory extended the longest current winning streak by one team against another in an NHL city. The



Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Steve Downie, front left, knocks New York Rangers center Brian Boyle (22) into the Lightning's bench in the first period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011. Downie was penalized for roughing on the play.

Associated Press

Penner to Kings tops NHL trade deadline day

By The Associated Press

Until the Los Angeles Kings made the biggest move of NHL trade deadline day by prying forward Dustin Penner away from the Edmonton Oilers, the further breaking up of the Florida Panthers dominated an otherwise dull day of dealing.

Penner was the main marquee player to change teams on Monday, in what was an out-of-character slow deadline day.

The Oilers, who own the NHL's worst record, unloaded their star forward for an impressive bundle — receiving prospect defenseman Colten Teubert, a first-round pick this year, and another draft selection next year.

There were 16 deals Monday involving 35 players and 12 draft picks, nowhere near the record level of last year when 31 trades with 55 players included were completed.

This was the fewest number of trades on deadline day since 2000 when there were 12.

The last time fewer players changed teams was in 2004 when 32 were dealt in 20 trades.

"There's only a few teams, really, that are out of the play-off races in the East and West. That means most teams were looking to add as opposed to looking to sell players," Chicago Blackhawks GM Stan Bowman said. "When that happens, there's just not a lot of players in play."

"It takes two parties to want to make a deal, and with just a few teams that were willing to trade players away, it made it difficult."

In addition to Penner, other familiar players on the move included center Jason Arnott, who waived his no-trade clause to go from New Jersey to Washington in a deal that sent Dave Steckel to the Devils; Fredrik Modin was dealt to Calgary by Atlanta for a seventh-round pick; and the Carolina Hurricanes sent forward Sergei Samsonov to Florida for Bryan Allen in one of four deals made by the Panthers.

Florida, which sent veteran defenseman Bryan McCabe to the New York Rangers on Saturday, also dealt veteran forward Radek Dvorak to Atlanta for forwards Niclas Bergfors

and Patrick Rissmiller. The Thrashers made three deals on deadline day and claimed center Rob Schremp off waivers from the New York Islanders. The Panthers also dealt Cory Stillman and Michael Frolik earlier this month.

Brad Richards was the highest-profile player believed to be on the market, but the potential unrestricted free agent center is staying with the Dallas Stars, at least until July 1 when he will be able to sign anywhere. □

Predators have defeated the Blue Jackets in their past 16 visits.

Thrashers 3, Maple Leafs 2, OT

At Atlanta, Ron Hainsey scored from the edge of the left circle in overtime as Atlanta beat Jean-Sebastien Giguere and Toronto to end a five-game winless streak.

Chris Mason had 22 saves and Andrew Ladd and Tim Stapleton scored third-period goals

as the Thrashers rallied from a 2-0 deficit.

In other NHL games it was Chicago 4, Phoenix 3, SO; Tampa Bay 2, N.Y. Rangers 1; Nashville 3, Columbus 2; Atlanta 3, Toronto 2, OT; New Jersey 2, Florida 1; Calgary 1, St. Louis 0; Boston 3, Edmonton 2; and Anaheim 3, Colorado. □

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Ohio State back at No. 1 in AP poll



Ohio State coach Thad Matta yells out to his players during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Indiana Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Columbus, Ohio. Ohio State won 82-61.

Associated Press

By **RUSTY MILLER**
AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — After getting through their toughest stretch of the season, Ohio State is back at No. 1.

Marking the third week in a row The Associated Press Top 25 poll has had a new team on top, the Buckeyes climbed a spot over Duke, which lost at Virginia Tech on Saturday night.

The Buckeyes welcome their return to the top.

"I tell our team all the time we want to be No. 1 at the end of the season," coach Thad Matta said on Monday. "We want to be playing our best basketball in March. Moving to No. 1 is a tribute to how hard our guys have worked all year. We appreciate the recognition and our guys certainly deserve it." The Buckeyes were No. 1 for four weeks after reeling off a 24-0 record. Then came losses at Wisconsin and at Purdue in a span of nine days, sandwiched around a win over Michigan State.

Coming off two wins, and with two regular-season games remaining, the Buckeyes have a quick turnaround after Sunday's 82-61 home win over Indiana with a game at Penn State on Tuesday night. Then comes a showdown at home with No. 10 Wisconsin on Sunday. The Buckeyes (27-2, 14-2) need one win to clinch at least a share of their fourth

Big Ten championship in six years. Two wins, and they're assured of their third outright title in that span.

David Lighty, a fifth-year senior who is the Buckeyes' defensive specialist and third-leading scorer, said the immediate concern is winning the conference title.

"It means a lot. That's our No. 1 goal right now," he said. "That's our first step to reaching our second goal. So you've got to take care of the task at hand. It's like coach always says, it's one game at a time. When we do that, everything else just falls into place."

Lighty already has two Big Ten championship rings. He said he shows them to his teammates.

"It's big for us; everyone wants a ring," he said. "So hanging another banner up would be great."

Matta is a sterling 183-56 in his seven years at Ohio State, where he has become known as an elite recruiter. He has had to replenish the cupboard several times, after losing freshmen stars Greg Oden, Mike Conley Jr., Daequan Cook, Kosta Koufos and Byron Mullens to the NBA draft after just one season.

Also, imagine how good the Buckeyes would be if Evan Turner — last year's consensus national player of the year and the No. 2 pick in the NBA draft — had returned for his

senior season.

Matta is 285-87 in 11 years as a head coach — an average annual record of 26-8 — during stints at his alma mater, Butler, along with Xavier and Ohio State.

Now the Buckeyes play in big games on national television all the time. He and his players have gotten used to the glare of the spotlights.

"I always tell our guys, for me to say, 'Today's a big game' would be wasting my breath," Matta said. "They have a very good sense of what it's about. I can remember many, many years ago as an assistant, I'd call my buddies and say, 'You're not going to believe this, but we're going to be on ESPN tonight. Now, it's a midnight tipoff, but it's the only time we could get on. Make sure you stay up and check me out.' Now it's, we're on television again. It is what it is."

Ohio State received 45 first-place votes from the 65-member national media panel, easily outdistancing Kansas, which moves up one place with 14 No. 1 votes.

BYU, which had five first-place votes, jumped from seventh to third, while Pittsburgh remained fourth, tied with Duke, which had one first-place vote. Purdue, Texas, Notre Dame, San Diego State and Wisconsin round out the top 10. □

AP women's poll: UConn is No. 1, top 5 unchanged

By The Associated Press

Connecticut remains No. 1 in women's college basketball, with the first five teams in the Top 25 unchanged in the poll by The Associated Press.

UConn received 36 of the 39 first-places votes Monday and No. 2 Stanford drew the other three. The Huskies host Syracuse on Monday night before playing in the Big East tournament that starts this weekend.

Baylor, Tennessee and Texas A&M round out the first five. Houston entered the poll at No. 25, its first ranking since 2004. The Conference USA team has won 14 straight games and won't play until Saturday when it hosts Tulane in its regular-season finale.

Iowa rejoined the Top 25 while West Virginia and Georgia fell out.

One voter was unable to vote this week. □

MATCH PLAY - Continued from Page B1

The consolation prize for Kaymer is going to No. 1 in the career, which he assured by reaching the championship match.

Donald was in more dire need of this trophy, however.

It was his first win in America in five years, and it was only his second win worldwide since he captured the 2006 Honda Classic. The 33-year-old Englishman had done just about everything right except win.

"I solely focus on trying to win tournaments," Donald said. "I felt like I hadn't won my fair share for as good a player as I felt I was and could be. It was disappointing. It was frustrating to me. To come here and compete against the best players in the world and win the trophy is very gratifying."

In what was a week like no other in the 13-year history of the Accenture Match Play Championship. Donald played only 89 holes in six matches and never trailed in any of them. In

fact, he led after 81 of those holes.

"It feels amazing," Donald said. "I had a bit of a monkey on my back. I hadn't won in the U.S. in five years."

Donald won his first World Golf Championship, and became the second player from England to capture the Match Play Championship. He goes to a career-best No. 3 in the world to continue a European resurgence in the ranking. The next world ranking will be Kaymer, Lee Westwood, Donald and Graeme McDowell. It's the first time since March 15, 1992, that the top four spots have been occupied by Europeans.

Matt Kuchar defeated Bubba Watson in the consolation match and will go to No. 10 in the world.

This Match Play Championship will stand out for reasons beyond golf.

A late winter storm dusted Dove Mountain with nearly an inch of snow, and the fairways were blankets of white in the morning. □



New world No.1 Martin Kaymer of Germany studies his line to the pin from the rough on the 8th green while playing Luke Donald of England during the finals of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

Comcast, NBC deal opens door for online video

By JOELLE TESSLER
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — New Internet video services from companies such as Netflix and Apple are offering a glimpse of a home entertainment future that doesn't include a pricey monthly cable bill.

To challenge the cable TV industry's dominance in the living room, though, online video services need popular movies and TV shows to lure viewers, and access to high-speed Internet networks to reach them.

Yet they have had no rights to either — until now.

To win government approval to take over NBC Universal last month, cable giant Comcast Corp. agreed to let online rivals license NBC programming, including hit shows such as "30 Rock" and "The Office." Comcast also agreed not to block its 17 million broadband subscribers from watching video online through Netflix, Apple's iTunes and other rivals yet to come.

Those requirements aim to ensure that the nation's largest cable TV company, with

nearly 23 million video subscribers in 39 states, cannot stifle the growth of the nascent Internet video business. Although they apply only to Comcast and NBC, these conditions could serve as a model for other big entertainment companies in dealing with new online competitors. They also send a powerful message that the government believes these promising young rivals deserve an opportunity to take on established media companies.

"These conditions are not just window dressing," said Paul Gallant, an analyst for MF Global, a financial brokerage. "They come across as a pretty comprehensive effort to give Internet TV a real shot at taking off."

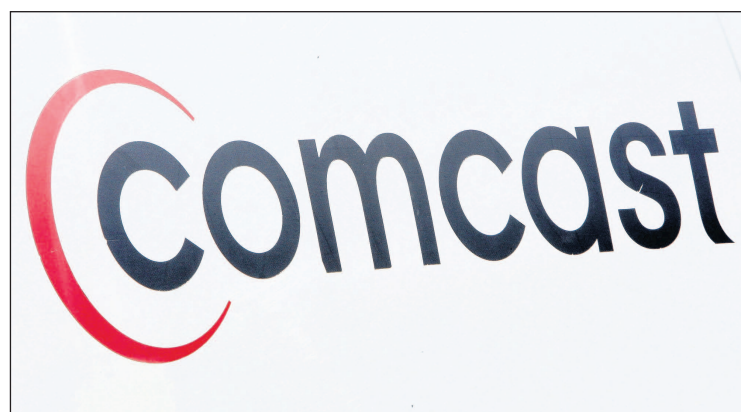
The Federal Communications Commission and the Justice Department spent more than a year reviewing Comcast's plan to buy a 51 percent stake in NBC Universal from General Electric. The deal gives Comcast control over the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, cable channels such as CNBC and Bravo, the

Universal Pictures movie studio and a stake in Hulu.com, which distributes NBC and other broadcast programming online.

Government officials wanted to ensure that Comcast could not crush competition through its control over both a major media empire and the pipes that deliver cable and Internet services to millions of American homes.

But figuring out how to protect online video was tricky because the market is still taking shape.

Netflix offers subscription plans with unlimited online viewing for \$8 a month. Apple and Amazon.com let customers rent or buy individual movies and TV shows for as little as a few dollars apiece — providing an alternative for people who don't want big bundles of cable channels they may never watch. Apple and Google make set-top boxes and software that transfer online video to television sets, freeing it from computer screens. TV makers are also building in Internet capabilities.



In this Feb. 15, 2011 file photo, a Comcast logo is displayed on an installation truck in Pittsburgh. To win government approval to take over NBC Universal last month, cable giant Comcast Corp. agreed to let online rivals license NBC programming, including hit shows such as "30 Rock" and "The Office." Comcast also agreed not to block its 17 million broadband subscribers from watching video online through Netflix, Apple's iTunes and other rivals yet to come.

All these options could make it easier to cut the cable cord — and the cable bill. In 2010, Comcast's cable customers paid an average of \$70 per month for video services.

But with control of NBC Universal, Comcast could handicap Web rivals by overcharging for — or simply withholding — all sorts of marquee content.

A "Top Chef" fan, for instance, might not drop cable if the show weren't available

online. Comcast could also block or slow online video traffic on its massive broadband network. iTunes can't compete with cable if programs stutter online.

None of the major online video companies would comment about Comcast. The cable company insists that it doesn't consider Internet video a threat. Indeed, the Internet lets Comcast expand beyond its existing cable service territory and distribute NBC content more widely, through a broad range of websites and devices.

Still, in approving the deal, federal officials attached dozens of conditions, including several big ones to protect Internet video:

- Comcast must sell its content to online video services. That gives them access to marquee NBC Universal programming.
- Comcast can't interfere with Internet video traffic flowing over its broadband network. That means that it cannot prevent its subscribers from accessing Netflix and other Web video services, or slow down traffic from these services to make them jerky, unreliable and hard to watch.
- Comcast must sell stand-alone Internet access at a reasonable price, without tying it to a cable TV package, to enable cord-cutting. That includes offering a standard 6-megabit-per-second plan, which is fast enough to handle Internet video, for roughly \$50 a month. □

Motorola Mobility sues TiVo over DVR patents

DANA WOLLMAN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Motorola Mobility Inc. is suing TiVo Inc., alleging that TiVo's signature digital video recorder set-top boxes use technology patented by Motorola.

"We pride ourselves on our strong R&D (research and development) and intellectual property and will move aggressively to protect that value on behalf of our customers, partners and shareholders," Motorola said in a statement.

According to the lawsuit, filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Texarkana, Texas, Motorola subsidiary General Instrument owns multiple patents for DVR technology, including some filed in 1995, more than two years before TiVo developed its own DVR set-top box.

The patents in dispute allow people to record a television show while watching another.

TiVo, based in Alviso, California, declined to comment on the Motorola lawsuit.

In 2009, TiVo filed its own suit against a Motorola customer, Verizon Communications Inc., alleging that it violates TiVo's patent. Motorola sells set-top boxes to Verizon, which in turn sells DVR service to its subscribers. TiVo has also filed a similar suit against AT&T Inc.

TiVo has been embroiled in a similar legal battle against Echostar Corp. and its former subsidiary, Dish Network Corp. for seven years.

The companies presented oral arguments before the full panel



The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is seen in Alexandria, Va., Friday, Feb. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

of appellate judges for the federal circuit in November, and now await a judgment. Echostar has already paid TiVo more than \$100 million in damages. If TiVo wins its case, Echostar will have to pay roughly \$200 million in damages through July 2009, and, most likely, damages from the past year and a half as well.

Motorola's lawsuit against TiVo came two days after online money transfer service Xoom Corp. sued Motorola for violating its trademark. Motorola last week began selling a tablet computer called the Xoom, which is intended to compete with Apple Inc.'s popular iPad.

Shares of Libertyville, Illinois-based Motorola Mobility fell 94 cents, or 3 percent, to \$29.67 during Monday afternoon trading, while shares of TiVo fell 11 cents to \$10.29. □

U.S. farmers hire movie stars to sell nuts in Asia

GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD, California (AP) — Chinese movie star Gao Yuan Yuan ambled in front of blooming almond trees, smelled the flowers, learned about pollination and even got stung by a bee — all while two Chinese television crews filmed her for a documentary and television series focused on California’s almond country. The almond industry has hired Gao as its ambassador in China, and its effort is just one of many California nut growers are making to capture new markets in developing countries. U.S. farm exports reached an all-time high of \$115.8 billion last year, and experts say developing nations such as China and India have huge potential for future growth. China surpassed Canada to emerge as the top market for U.S. agricultural exports last year with \$17.5 billion in sales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “Everybody sees the Asia Pacific region as the place to be in the foreseeable future and is trying to establish a presence there to be a player in those emerging markets,” said Dr. Mechel Paggi, director of the Center for Agricultural Business at California State University, Fresno. California’s agricultural exports have increased steadily for the past seven years, even through the recession, and the most rapid growth has been in nut sales. Almonds, walnuts and pistachios are now some of state’s top exports. But experts say that if the specialty crop industry hopes to continue that trend, it will need smart marketing to get people to eat more of their products. “You have to take in cultural considerations,” said Becky Sereno, international marketing specialist for the



In this photo taken Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, Chinese movie star Gao Yuan Yuan poses for two Chinese television crews at an almond orchard near Bakersfield, Calif. Gao is California’s almond ambassador in China and an example of how Central Valley farmers are trying to capture new markets in developing countries.

Associated Press

Almond Board of California. “There are deep rooted cultural and even medicinal traditions, connotations and perceptions in these cultures.” Hence, the hiring of movie stars such as Gao. People in their home countries feel a connection to them, and they “portray an image of a healthy, successful life. People look up to them as somebody they aspire to be,” Sereno said. The Almond Board paid for Gao’s trip to the orchards near Bakersfield this month in the shooting of the documentary and TV series. She’s also featured in print ads and billboards the group has paid to have installed in bus shelters and print media and may appear in a series of TV commercials. A similar campaign is ongoing in India, where the Almond Board hired Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor to appear in television spots clad in a traditional Hindu sari during the fall festival season. The Almond Board ramped up its marketing in Asia in response to record shipments in recent years, Sereno said. China and India were among the top four almond export

destinations last year. Exports to China have risen from 16 million to 133 million pounds over the past five years. Other nut growers also are targeting Asian consumers. The Western Pistachio Association has been pushing sales with billboards and in-store displays and promotions, and it recently announced that Miss California Arianna Afsar, who has adopted pistachios as her official snack, will do a marketing tour in Asia this year. Asfar, a former contestant on Fox’s “American Idol,” is part Bengali. Like almonds, pistachio exports have expanded rapidly: Sales to China have gone from \$5 million to \$109 million in six years, said Judy Hirigoyen, the pistachio association’s global marketing director. California overtook Iran as the world’s No. 1 pistachio exporter in 2008, when Iran experienced a severe freeze. An increased interest in health among Asia’s growing middle class has helped boost sales of nuts and other specialty crops, and marketers are tapping into that, said Jim Zion of Clovis-based Meridian Nut Growers and chairman of the Western Pistachio Association. □



Easing oil prices, deal news send stocks higher

CHIP CUTTER
DAVID K. RANDALL
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Stabilizing oil prices and signs that the economy may be improving pushed stock indexes higher Monday. The Standard and Poor’s 500 index, the benchmark for most U.S. mutual funds, finished its third straight month of gains. Oil prices fell to about \$97 a barrel as worries over the global oil market eased after reports that some Libyan ports reopened to oil tankers and Saudi Arabia was boosting exports. Prices surged above \$100 a barrel last week as clashes between rebels and government-backed forces intensified in Libya. The Commerce Department said consumer incomes rose by the largest amount in nearly two years in January, thanks to a tax cut that began last month. The head of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, meanwhile, said that the country’s economic outlook has “improved considerably.” The Dow Jones industrial average gained 95.89 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 12,226.34. The Standard and Poor’s 500 rose 7.34, or 0.6 percent, to 1,327.22. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.22 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,782.27. All three major stock indexes posted their third straight month of gains. The last time that happened was in the three-month period that ended last April. The S&P 500 gained 3.2 percent in February, the Dow 2.8 percent and the Nasdaq 3 percent. Those figures don’t include dividends. A new round of corporate deals also helped push some stocks higher. Ventas Inc., which owns senior housing communities, said it would buy Nationwide Health Properties Inc. in a \$5.8 billion deal that will create the nation’s largest health care real-estate investment trust. Nationwide Health rose 10 percent, while Ventas fell 3 percent.



A pair of traders confer as they work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange before the closing bell, Friday, Feb. 25, 2011.

Associated Press

Australia’s Equinox Minerals Limited, a mining company, said it would make a hostile bid to acquire Canada’s Lundin Mining Corp. for \$4.9 billion in cash and stock. Lundin rose 19 percent while Equinox fell 9 percent. Both trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The deals came just two days after Warren Buffett said in his annual letter to investors that he is “itchy” to make more big acquisitions for his company, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Berkshire had \$38 billion in cash at the end of last year. Its shares rose 2.8 percent. Humana Inc. rose 3.8 percent after the health insurer raised its 2011 earnings forecast for the third time since November. The company also said it regained a contract to provide coverage for 3 million active duty and retired military members and their families in several Southern states. □

Random House agrees to e-sale model Apple requires

“We are making this change both as an investment in the successful digital transition of our existing partners and in order to give us the opportunity to forge new retail relationships,” Random House said in a statement. Random House had been the last holdout among the six top New York publishers to accept the new system, which gives publishers more control over the cost of e-books. They would sell for \$12.99 to \$14.99 when first released and prices would change over time. Random House had previously refrained, saying booksellers, not publishers, should set the final price. Industry observers had noted that under the previous system, publishers retained a greater share of the revenues. Under the old model, Amazon.com had been offering best-selling e-books for \$9.99 or less, a cost that publishers said was too low and could harm the value of all books. Random House spokesman Stuart Applebaum would not say whether the publisher would be signing on with Apple, although the announcement does cite “the opportunity to forge new retail relationships.” Applebaum said the decision came after “extensive conversations with a broad range of booksellers” and that it was looking to “support our retailers’ digital growth as well as our own.” □



In this Nov. 26, 2010 file photo, a store employee holds up an iPad at an Apple Store in San Francisco.

Associated Press

HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stieg Larsson’s novels may finally be headed to the iBookstore. Random House Inc., which publishes Larsson, Dan Brown and John Grisham, among others, announced Monday that it had agreed to use the “agency model” required to sell books through Apple’s store. Users of iPads and other Apple devices have only been able to purchase Random House books through an app for Amazon.com’s Kindle or for other e-devices.

China’s holdings of U.S. debt jump 30 percent

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — China, the biggest buyer of U.S. Treasury securities, owns a lot more than previously estimated. In an annual revision of the figures, the Treasury Department said Monday that China’s holdings totaled \$1.16 trillion at the end of December. That was an increase of 30 percent from an estimate the government made two weeks ago. The government made the change to its monthly report based on more accurate information it obtains in an annual survey. That survey more does a better job of determining the actual owners of Treasury securities. China was firmly in the top spot as the largest foreign holder of U.S. Treasury debt even before the revisions. But the big increase in Chinese holdings could ease fears that Chinese investors might begin dumping their U.S. holdings. Such a development could send U.S. interest rates rising. That would slow America’s economic recovery and increase Washington’s costs for financing the \$14.3 trillion national debt. China and Britain were the countries with the biggest revisions in the new report. The amount of U.S. Treasury securities held by Britain fell to \$272.1 billion in the new report. That’s a drop of \$269.2 billion from

the last monthly report which put the Britain’s holdings of U.S. debt at \$541.3 billion. The holdings of the two countries often show big revisions when the annual report is released. The reason for the change is that Chinese investors who purchase their Treasury securities in London are often counted as British investors. The more detailed annual report does a better job of tracking the countries in which investors reside as opposed to the location where investors make their purchases. Even with the revision, Britain remained the third largest holder of U.S. Treasuries. Japan had the second highest foreign holdings, totaling \$882.3 billion at the end of December. The revision was only slightly below the original estimate. The total foreign holdings of Treasury debt stood at \$4.44 trillion at the end of December, according to the new report. That’s up 1.5 percent from the estimate made two weeks ago. About two-thirds of U.S. Treasuries owned overseas are held by foreign governments and central banks. The U.S. government is selling huge amounts of debt to finance record-high budget deficits. The Obama administration in its new budget released on Feb. 14 projected that this year’s deficit will reach a record \$1.65 trillion. It would be the third consecutive year the federal deficit has exceeded \$1 trillion. □

Health Care REIT in \$2.4B Genesis property deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Health Care REIT Inc. is buying the assets of rehabilitation facility and nursing home operator Genesis HealthCare for \$2.4 billion in the second major health care real estate deal announced Monday. The Toledo, Ohio, company said it will buy all of enesis’ real estate assets, which include 147 post-acute care, rehabilitation, assisted living and long-term care services in 11 states across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. It will have an option to buy a 9.9-percent stake in Genesis for \$47 million. Genesis of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, will continue to run the facilities. Health Care REIT is buying

the assets from JER Partners and Formation Capital LLC. The boards of Health Care REIT and Genesis have both approved the deal. The company said it expects the sale to close during the second quarter assuming regulators approve. The company said it plans to sell 25 million shares of stock and \$625 million in convertible preferred stock to finance the deal. The underwriters of that offering will have an option to buy as much as 3.8 million common shares and \$93.8 million in preferred stock to cover any over allotments. Health Care REIT also obtained a commitment for a bridge loan worth as much as \$2.4 billion.

Health Care REIT said it expects \$198 million in rent in the first year after closing. The deal is expected to increase its annual funds from operations by 39 cents per share. Funds from operations, which adds in such items as amortization and depreciation, is considered key to measuring the financial performance of real estate investment trusts. Genesis said its biggest markets include Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The deal would give Health Care REIT 880 properties with a total value of \$13 billion. The company said it will have about 120 clinical specialty units. □

'King's Speech' reigns with best-picture Oscar



Colin Firth as stammering British ruler George VI in "The King's Speech" earned the best-actor prize.

LOS ANGELES — "The King's Speech" was crowned best picture Sunday at an Academy Awards ceremony as precise as a state coronation. The monarchy drama won an expected four Oscars, and predictable favorites claimed acting honors.

Colin Firth as stammering British ruler George VI in "The King's Speech" earned the best-actor prize, while Natalie Portman won best actress as a delusional ballerina in "Black Swan."

The boxing drama "The Fighter" captured both supporting-acting honors, for Christian Bale as a boxer-turned-drug-abuser and Melissa Leo as a boxing clan's domineering matriarch.

"The King's Speech" also won the directing prize for Tom Hooper and the original-screenplay Oscar for David Seidler, a boyhood stut-

terer himself.

"I have a feeling my career has just peaked," Firth said. "I'm afraid I have to warn you that I'm experiencing stirrings somewhere in the upper abdominals which are threatening to form themselves into dance moves."

Among those Portman beat was Annette Bening for "The Kids Are All Right." Bening now has lost all four times she's been nominated.

"Thank you so much. This is insane, and I truly, sincerely wish that the prize tonight was to get to work with my fellow nominees.

I'm so in awe of you," Portman said.

Network censors bleeped Leo for dropping the F-word during her speech. Backstage, she jokingly conceded it was "probably a very inappropriate place to use that particular word."

"Those words, I apologize to anyone that they offend. There is a great deal of the English language that is in my vernacular," Leo said.

Bale joked that he was keeping his language clean. "I'm not going to drop the F-bomb like she did," he said. "I've done that plenty of times before." □

Sheen wants a raise!



NEW YORK — Charlie Sheen says he wants a raise to come back to the CBS show "Two and a Half Men."

The troubled star appeared on dueling morning show interviews to continue an attack on CBS and producers of his hit sitcom for shutting down the show because of his off-set behavior. Both ABC's "Good Morning America" and NBC's "Today" show aired lengthy segments of

their interviews in their first and second half hours.

It was startling television that overshadowed morning-after Oscars coverage. Sheen boasted about his "epic" partying, said he's fueled by "violent hatred" of his bosses, said he cleaned up from drugs at home at his "Sober Valley Lodge" and said he's "tired of pretending I'm not a total, bitchin' rock star from Mars." NBC interviewer Jeff Rossen appeared taken aback when Sheen said he wanted to be paid \$3 million an episode to return to the show. He's reportedly paid \$1.8 million an episode now, one of the highest-paid actors on television. □

With traditional results

Oscars go young and hip

LOS ANGELES — These were supposed to be the younger, hipper Academy Awards, the ones that shook up the ceremony's conventions with popular, great-looking emcees in actors James Franco and Anne Hathaway, who were unlike the middle-aged comedians and TV talk-show hosts of years past.

But the results couldn't have been more traditional, with "The King's Speech" a prestigious, impeccably made historical film that cries out "Oscar" with every fiber in its being winning best picture and three other prizes over more daring, contemporary contenders like "The Social Network" and "Black Swan." They also couldn't have been more predictable. Front-runners in other major categories throughout this long and repetitive awards season also took home trophies from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre Sunday night: best-actor Colin Firth for "The King's Speech," best-actress Natalie Portman for "Black Swan," and supporting actors Christian Bale and Melissa Leo, both for "The Fighter."



"The King's Speech"

"King's Speech" director Tom Hooper, who'd already won the Directors Guild Award an excellent predictor of Oscar success.

Despite multiple attempts to make the Oscars seem current including an opening montage that inserted Franco and Hathaway in the best-picture nominees, "Inception"-style, and an auto-tune "Harry Potter" spoof some of the biggest applause and longest standing ovations were for a couple of Academy Awards stalwarts. Kirk Douglas delighted the crowd as he jokingly tormented the supporting-actress nominees before announcing Leo as the winner. Once she took the stage, the 94-year-

old Douglas remarked to her, "You're much more beautiful than you were in 'The Fighter'" but then Leo went on to drop an F-bomb during her acceptance speech.

It was a rare unexpected moment but the censors bleeped it in time.

Later, upon the appearance of Billy Crystal who hosted the ceremony several times in the 1990s the audience erupted as one, as if willing him to take over immediately.

Hathaway worked hard to keep the proceedings fun and light, playfully twisting in a fringy gown and joking that everyone at home should take a drink when she flubbed her introduction of last year's best-actress winner, Sandra Bullock. Franco, who was also a best-actor nominee for the real-life survival story "127 Hours," had a more laid-back stage presence, as if he's been working on a sequel to the stoner comedy "Pineapple Express."

They were even self-deprecating enough to acknowledge early on why they were chosen to lead the 83rd Annual Academy Awards. □

As 'Fear' rolls out, mayhem abound

PHILADELPHIA — There's plenty of fear to be had in the Marvel Universe.

The comic publisher's roster of characters heroes and villains will face a major scare and major test in a series of tie-ins, crossovers and a dedicated miniseries that will see heroes grapple with extinction-level events as writer Matt Fraction captures the global zeitgeist amid four-color panels.

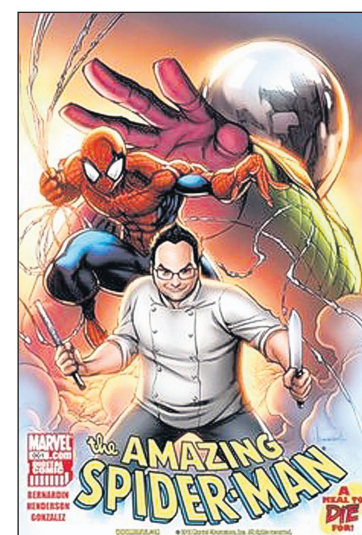
The first issue of "Fear Itself" hits store shelves April 6. The cover sports a battered and bruised Thor and a mysterious man standing over the thunder god's supine body, wielding the hammer Mjolnir.

Fraction said the first issue sets the tone for the entire seven-issue series.

"A fuse is lit at the end of the first issue and it explodes in the second, which is called 'Blitzkrieg USA,'" he told

The Associated Press. "The stakes start off impossibly high and just keep escalating." That second issue comes out May 4 and features Thor shackled in chains and Juggernaut Marvel's unstoppable force with a checkered history as villain, sometime hero and always-misunderstood man crouched to strike.

"My focal point has been how this terrible thing, how The Serpent, how this dark god affects Captain America and Thor, primarily, with Iron Man and the rest of the Avengers characters right behind him," Fraction said. "This story became the mega-event-thing it became because of what it meant for our characters first and foremost, so keeping them in focus, and keeping them off their toes and wildly unsafe



has been the target."

Tom Brevoort, Marvel's senior vice president for publishing, said the goal of the series, which runs April to October, with a prologue issuing shipping this month, is to provide a cohesive story in one package without the need to acquire several other issues from other titles. □

Steven Tyler

Divas, rockers, stars flock to Oscar parties

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift, Cee Lo Green, Mick Jagger, Steven Tyler. With pop stars, R&B singers and long-haired rockers galore at parties following the Academy Awards, the glam festivities felt more like the Grammys than Hollywood's biggest night honoring film.

At Vanity Fair's packed, exclusive bash at West Hollywood's Sunset Tower Hotel, just one of several soirees Sunday, A-list musicians mingled with Oscar nominees and winners from one corner of the room to the other.

Teen singing sensation Bieber, wearing all black and sporting a new, shorter haircut, showed off his affection for Disney actress Selena Gomez. The pair snuggled in a patio booth, holding hands, then later bear-hugged 14-year-old "True Grit" best supporting actress nominee



Hailee Steinfeld. Bieber, who turns 17 on Tuesday, clutched his iPhone, which depicted a photo of him with Gomez as its home screen, as they ran out of the party before midnight.

Close by, country-pop star Taylor Swift, statuesque in a sparkling Zuhair Murad mini dress, kept close

to friend and actress Emma Stone. Swift later stole away to meet up with Jake Gyllenhaal, who she has been linked to in the past. The two spoke in hushed tones by the women's restroom. Swift left the party alone. By the time "Black Swan" actress Natalie Portman arrived with her best actress Oscar statuette in one hand, and her fiancé Benjamin Millepied gripping the other, the party was in full swing. Accepting congratulations left and right, a tired but happy looking Portman, pregnant with her first child, left after only 20 minutes.

Celebrity guests sipped champagne, and chomped on modest fare, from In-N-Out burgers to mini churros and Krispy Kreme donut holes. The Rolling Stones' Jagger text messaged off to the side while Aerosmith singer turned new "American Idol" judge Tyler chatted with snowboarder

Shaun White, both of them sporting their customary shaggy manes of hair. Famed full-bearded music producer Rick Rubin hung out near DJ and singer Moby.

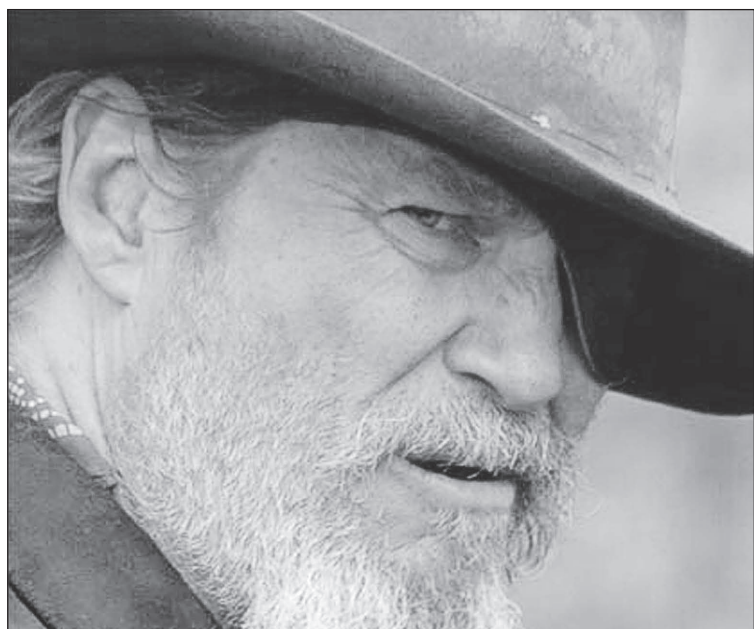
Rapper 50 Cent wove throughout the party, as did half the cast of music-filled TV show "Glee." Comics Larry David and Sacha Baron Cohen joked together while Kevin Spacey laughed with Jimmy Kimmel. Charlize Theron joyfully hugged best supporting actor nominee Jeremy Renner.

"I just did the Oscars with him, and I'm in love with him," Oscar host Anne Hathaway jokingly gushed about cohost James Franco to another guest.

Other celebrity attendees included Jennifer Hudson, Hugh Jackman, Donald Trump, Charlize Theron, Jeremy Renner, Michelle Williams, Amy Adams and Gwyneth Paltrow, who waved to screaming fans outside and shouted "I love you too!" as she left in her limo. □

"True Grit,"

Golden Globes lead Oscar losers



It marked the worst performance by a film at the Academy Awards since 2003, when "Gangs of New York" also went zero for 10.

LOS ANGELES — "True Grit" was left in the dust at the Oscars on Sunday, failing to win a single prize despite receiving 10 nominations.

It marked the worst performance by a film at the Academy Awards since 2003, when "Gangs of New York" also went zero for 10.

The Coen brothers' western remake was a major box office hit but was never much of a contender during awards season. Its prominence in the Oscar race just behind newly crowned champion "The King's Speech," nominated in 12 categories, was a surprise. Among the less fortunate

"True Grit" nominees, cinematographer Roger Deakins was seeking his first Oscar on his ninth attempt. He was beaten by four-time contender Wally Pfister for "Inception." □

In France

Actress Annie Girardot dies

PARIS — French actress Annie Girardot, who performed in over 100 films from the 1950s on, died in Paris after a long battle with Alzheimer's, her family said. She was 79 years old.

Born in Paris on October 25, 1931, Girardot trained as a nurse before becoming a stage actress. Jean Cocteau said she had "the most beautiful post-war dramatic temperament." Her first silver screen performance was in Andre Hunebelle's "13 at table".

In 1969 she starred as a prostitute in Luchino Visconti's "Rocco and his brothers," playing alongside French star



Alain Delon and Italian actor Renato Salvatori, also her future husband and father to daughter Giulia.

She performed in dozens of classic French films, in roles ranging from a policewoman to lawyer or teacher. □

Author Lewis sued for defamation

NEW YORK — Michael Lewis, best-selling author of "The Big Short" about the mortgage meltdown, has been sued for defamation by an asset manager featured in the book.

Other targets in the lawsuit are Lewis' publisher and prominent hedge fund manager Steven Eisman of FrontPoint Partners LLC.

Wing Chau and his firm Harding Advisory LLC believe Lewis made "false and defamatory" statements in the book "and want to redress that wrong," according to the lawsuit filed in Manhattan federal court on Friday and made public.

Lewis and the publisher W.W. Norton & Company could not immediately be reached to



comment on the lawsuit. Eisman, who was one of Lewis' sources for the book, said he had not received any notice of being sued and could not comment. "In sharing the purported insider's view of the mortgage market meltdown, Lewis made false and defamatory statements about an experienced investment professional, Wing Chau, and his firm, Harding Advisory

LLC," the lawsuit said.

It said the book portrays Eisman as a "heroic" figure who foresaw the collapse of the market and made a fortune betting against it. In contrast, Chau and other managers with expertise in collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) were "villains" who "were according to Lewis, responsible for the crisis," the court document said. Chau seeks unspecified damages against all the defendants and punitive damages. The full title of the book is "The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine." It was published in March 2010 and spent six weeks as No. 1 on The New York Times list of hardcover nonfiction bestsellers. □



Pediatricians' Group Backs

Ban on tanning booth use by minors

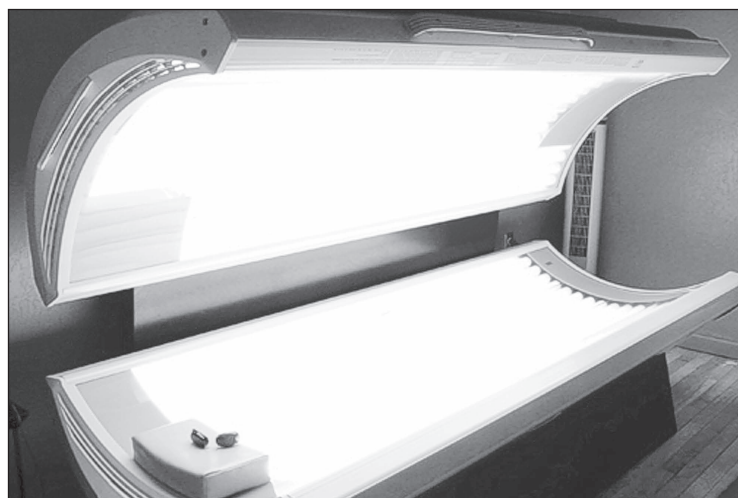
NEW YORK - In a new policy statement issued the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) said it supports legislation that would bar children from using tanning beds or other artificial tanning devices.

Stricter regulations are currently being mulled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. An advisory panel to the FDA has already advocated barring minors from using tanning beds, or at least requiring parental consent. The FDA is not bound to follow the decisions of its advisory

panels, but it usually does.

"Pediatricians should support and advocate for legislation to ban access to tanning parlors for children younger than 18 years," the AAP said in its policy statement on ultraviolet radiation, published in the March issue of Pediatrics.

In the article, the AAP noted that "the intensity of ultraviolet-A radiation produced by large, powerful tanning units may be 10 to 15 times higher than that of the midday sun," but nearly a quarter of white teenagers aged 13 to 19 re-



The intensity of ultraviolet-A radiation produced by large, powerful tanning units may be 10 to 15 times higher than that of the midday sun.

Drug-resistant mutation many HIV patients carry strain



NEW YORK - A new study estimates that between 10 percent and 15 percent of HIV patients in Europe and the United States are infected with a form of HIV that already has at least one drug-resistant mutation. The researchers found that the risk of treatment failure in these patients is three times higher than normal, and said their findings confirm the need for drug resistance testing in new patients to determine which antiretroviral drugs are most likely to be successful.

For the study, 10,056 HIV patients who were beginning combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) for the first time were categorized into three resistance categories: 90.5 percent (9,102 patients) had no transmitted drug-resistance (TDR); 4.7 percent (475 patients) had at least one mutation and were receiving fully active cART; 4.8 percent (479 patients) had at least one mutation and were resistant to at least one prescribed drug. Compared to patients without TDR, those with TDR and resistance to at least one prescribed drug were more than three times as likely to experience treatment failure, confirming "the need for at least three fully active antiretroviral drugs to optimize the virological response to a first-line regimen," the researchers wrote.

But the risk of treatment failure was not significantly different between patients without TDR and those with TDR taking a fully active cART regimen containing drugs not compromised by resistance. □

ported at least one visit to a tanning facility, according to one survey.

The AAP also noted that other organizations, including the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Dermatology, already support such a ban.

And in a statement issued Friday, Dr. Thomas Rohrer, secretary of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery

(ASDS), said his group "enthusiastically supports" the AAP's advocacy for a ban on tanning bed use by minors.

"Many parents may not be aware that melanoma is the most common skin cancer in children, followed by basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas," Rohrer said in a news release. "In addition, only six severe sunburns in a lifetime increase risk of melanoma by 50 percent." □

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Empresarios del transporte protestan

SAN SALVADOR (AP) -

Un grupo de empresarios del transporte público protestó el lunes contra un plan del gobierno que intensifica la verificación de los documentos de conductores debido a una serie de accidentes de tránsito. Los manifestantes se concentraron en las cercanías de la presidencia, en la zona noroeste de la capital. Policías antimotines les impidieron el paso hacia el edificio sin registrarse incidentes.

Los transportistas “están inconformes por procedimientos policiales” que comenzaron el sábado en terminales de autobuses y principales carreteras del país, informó la subinspectora Marta Recinos, de la división de tránsito de la policía.

“No hay ninguna persecución, estamos realizando el trabajo que nos corresponde. No es culpa nuestra que la mayoría, tal vez el 80% de los conductores del transporte, no posean licencias por estar suspendidas o bloqueadas debido a la acumulación de multas”,



Pasajeros viajan en un camión durante una huelga parcial de los empresarios de autobuses que rechazan medidas gubernamentales para intensificar la verificación de los documentos de los conductores y evitar el aumento de accidentes de tránsito. San Salvador, lunes 28 de febrero de 2011. (AP foto/Luis Romero)

señaló Recinos a la emisora YSKL. En tanto, otras transportistas bloquearon carreteras de la periferia de la capital o suspendieron sus labores

como una medida de apoyo. Recinos indicó que al menos 975 multas se han impuesto desde el sábado pasado a los transportistas en todo el país.

Al menos tres accidentes de tránsito fueron protagonizados la semana pasada por unidades del transporte público dejando unos 15 muertos y

130 golpeados. El mal estado de las unidades y la imprudencia de los conductores, fue la causa de los accidentes, según la policía. □

Venezuela: condenan a sindicalista a cárcel

CARACAS (AP) - Un tribunal local condenó a un dirigente sindical a 7 años y medio de cárcel por dirigir protestas de trabajadores en el estado suroriental de Bolívar, informó el lunes su abogado.

Un tribunal del estado Bolívar condenó el lunes al secretario del Sindicato de Trabajadores de la estatal Ferrominera del Orinoco (Sintraferrominera), Rubén González, por los delitos de asociación ilícita, restricción del derecho al trabajo, cierre de vías, instigación a delinquir y violación de las zonas de seguridad, declaró su abogado defensor Italo Atencio al canal de noticias Globovisión.

“Rubén González es inocente y así lo vamos a tratar. Vamos a ejercer hasta los últimos

recursos necesarios. La juez publicará la sentencia definitiva dentro de los 10 días siguientes, tenemos 10 días para apelar”, señaló Atencio. González fue detenido en septiembre del 2009 tras una huelga que realizaron varios cientos de obreros de la estatal CVG Ferrominera del Orinoco C.A. que exigían mejoras laborales.

El líder sindical negó los señalamientos de las autoridades y aseguró que las manifestaciones que dirigió fueron pacíficas. Algunas organizaciones de derechos humanos rechazaron el proceso contra González afirmando que con la detención del dirigente obrero el gobierno venezolano buscaba frenar la acción de los sindicatos, en particular en las empresas operadas por el Estado. □

Costa Rica refuerza seguridad en frontera con Nicaragua

SAN JOSE (AP) - Costa Rica reforzará con 150 policías la vigilancia en su frontera con Nicaragua en expectativa a las medidas cautelares que la Corte Internacional de Justicia dará el 8 de marzo por un litigio bilateral.

La presidenta Laura Chinchilla explicó el lunes que la movilización policial responde a un objetivo “de resguardo de la integridad territorial y de los pobladores de la zona... y es una garantía de protección como nunca antes hubo en esa frontera”. Sostuvo que el despliegue se hará “siempre en el marco de una doctrina de respeto a la Constitución... con observancia de los principios democráticos”, al reiterar que Costa Rica posee una “policía civilista” donde “no se cultiva la pasión por la

violencia”.

En una ceremonia de graduación de 260 oficiales del ministerio de Seguridad, la mandataria destacó que “nunca en la historia (del país) había tenido tanta importancia la escogencia (elección) de la profesión de policía, no solo por el recrudecimiento de la inseguridad sino por la vulnerabilidad de la soberanía, cuando se está en la antesala del fallo de la Corte”.

Chinchilla reiteró que Costa Rica respetará la sentencia y pidió la misma actitud de Nicaragua. En los próximos días saldrán hacia la zona norte del país unos 150 efectivos mientras siguen en capacitación cerca de 250 más que formarán parte de la nueva Policía de Fronteras, detalló el ministro de Segu-

ridad, José María Tijerino.

El canciller costarricense René Castro estuvo en Estados Unidos y esta semana tendrá citas en Europa, entre otros con la canciller de México, Patricia Espinosa, el ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Australia, Kevin Rudd y con el Secretario de Estado del departamento Federal de Relaciones Exteriores de Suiza, Peter Maurer, en busca de observadores internacionales que garanticen el cumplimiento del fallo que emita la CIJ. Costa Rica acusa a Managua de provocar daños ambientales al dragar una parte del fronterizo río San Juan, así como por la presencia de personal militar nicaragüense en una parte de su territorio. Nicaragua rechaza las acusaciones. □

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